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HIGH TIMES

October 4/1

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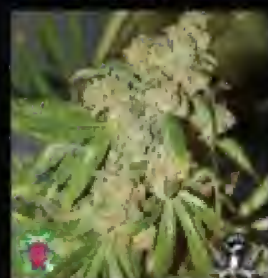
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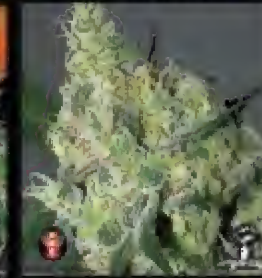
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HIGH TIMES OCTOBER



LEDs have made huge strides in the past year or so and now warrant not only a place in our growrooms, but even some space here in High Times.

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A revolutionary new product allows you to "ground" your indoor plants, enhancing their potency and growth. *By Sgt. Pepper*

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Our guy in Peru gets his head split open with the help of shamans and a three-ounce dose of ayahuasca. *By Bruce Northam*

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Indoor growers have a lot to consider when building the perfect growroom. The benefits and applications of LEDs are now being reconsidered. *By Nico Escondido*

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Extract experts weigh in on the pros, cons and possible dangers of butane hash oil. *By Bobby Black*

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Our third *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in the San Francisco Bay Area showcases the best buds from the world's cannabis capital.

90 The High Times Interview with Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd

Oil Can Boyd had one of the most fearsome pitching arms in baseball and depended on pot for his excellence. *By Mark Ribowsky*



A Better Grow Box Means *Better Crops.*

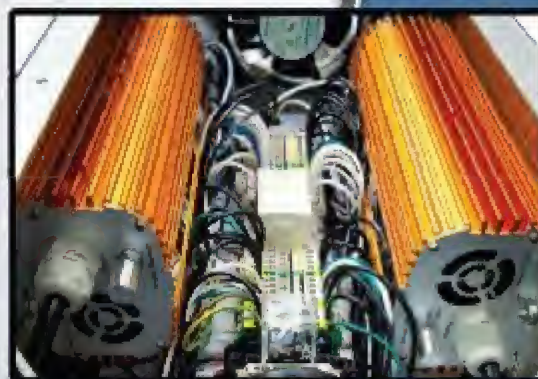
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Who's Who in Pot

There are hundreds of people in the cannabis industry who do outstanding work, and it's high time we recognized them. This month we inaugurate the *High Times* Who's Who list featuring the movers and shakers of our community. We'll be adding people to this prestigious list on a regular basis. Do you know someone who deserves to be honored? Or do you, yourself, deserve kudos? Visit hightimes.com/whoswho to view the archive or to submit a "Who's Who" suggestion.

Top 20 Activist Schools

In this issue, we list the top 10 colleges for stoners. However, on our website this month, you'll find our annual list of the nation's top campuses for marijuana activism honors. Which colleges "Just Say No" to the War on Pot? Go to hightimes.com/tags/college.

POT POLL



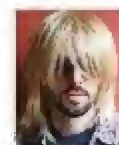
Will Jack ever get his own holiday?

Last year, on the anniversary of the death of Jack Herer, we asked a simple question. Should the founder of the modern cannabis movement and the author of *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* be honored on April 20 by naming our national stoner holiday "Jack Herer Day?" Our poll received more than 500 responses. Some suggested that June 18, his birthday, would be more appropriate. Others asked how exactly this could even be achieved? The final tally: Those who believed April 20 should be named in honor of Jack were outnumbered two to one.

Yes.....33.8%
No.....66.2%

This month cast your vote for Strain of the Year. The strain that receives the most votes will be featured in our December issue! Go to hightimes.com/polls.

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Mike Hughes
 @MikeHughes_ Everyone loves a good conspiracy theory. Check out Mike's unique investigations.

Elise McDonough



@EliseMcD420 The author of *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook* shares outstanding recipes.

Nico Escondido



@Nico_Escondido Wherever Nico goes, he's always armed with his camera. Check out his newest photoblog.

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Miss October 2012

NAME: **Kelly Glass**
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Dabs Away!

If you attended the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Richmond, CA this June—or any of our other recent events—you know that “dabbing” is all anyone in the cannabis community is talking about. Like it or not, dabs are hot—but the phenomenon raises a number of issues. How pure are your concentrates? Is butane hash oil (BHO) effective as medicine? And most importantly, is ingesting it safe? These are some of the issues I tackle in this month’s cover story “To Dab or Not to Dab?” by providing a forum for a panel of experts to examine the dos and don’ts of dabbing. Of course, when it comes to marijuana as medicine, there’s one trusted name that we always defer to—Dr. Lester Grinspoon. Here’s what the good doctor had to say on the subject:

Apparently there are some people who like the explosive kind of high one can achieve through dabbing. However, I am doubtful about how useful this new technique will be as a medicine. One of the medically unique qualities available with smoked or vaporized herbal marijuana is the precision with which a patient can titrate the dose against the symptom for which he seeks relief. One of the problems encountered by 19th century physicians who prescribed Cannabis Indica was the unavailability of reliable bioassays, which made it difficult for them to do little more than guess at the right dose. Similarly, the casual patient who dabs may find himself immediately quite

uncomfortable, even panicky, because he has suddenly received too much cannabis. Furthermore, I have always believed it to be a bad idea to inhale the un-oxidized products of butane; it is for this reason that I have always urged patients to use a vaporizer, or to avoid butane lighters when using a pipe. Alternatives should be considered.

I believe that smoking or vaporizing herbal marijuana remains the gold standard for the medicinal use of cannabis.

- Dr. Lester Grinspoon

Despite these concerns, however, the popularity of BHO (and other solvent extracts) continues to grow—and as it does, so will our coverage. As more evidence is gathered and further research is conducted, you can bet that we’ll be thoroughly exploring the world of dabs in the months and years to come.

Highest regards,

Bobby Black
Senior Editor

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The Dangers of Dabbing

Does Russ Bellville have shit for brains? In his May 2012 article “Dawn of the Dab,” he somehow leaves out all the warnings about toxic poison residues from the petrochemical butane! He says, “But remember, BHO is merely a purified form of cannabis, so it is still as nontoxic as cannabis.” Um, what? NOT! This is complete, stupid, utter bullshit. BHO must be purified up to five times to cleanse it of the carcinogens, brother! I want to see not only a retraction of this foolish, uneducated statement from *High Times*, but also an intelligent, honest, scientific article that educates and truly teaches users how to protect themselves from the toxins in BHO ... maybe something like “How to Clean BHO.”

Please, this is dangerous—not because of idiots blowing themselves up, but because casual disinformation will kill smokers (not immediately, of course, but years later from cancer). So be responsible and publish a real guide about BHO that is safe. Mucho gracias.

Dabs from Eureka, CA

Russ Bellville replies: Any method of preparing something for human ingestion can introduce danger if proper safety procedures aren't followed. If a restaurant doesn't thoroughly cook your chicken, you can get salmonella poisoning. That doesn't mean chicken wings are dangerous; it means that poor food preparation is. BHO, when purged properly, is still as nontoxic as cannabis. [Also, check out HT's dabs debate this month on page 72.]

Pro-Pot Presidency

I haven't seen anything in *High Times* about the Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson recently; the last time was when he was still running as a Republican. Johnson is the only major political figure proposing the complete legalization of marijuana as part of his presidential campaign. I should think *High Times* would be giving him a little more coverage.

VT

As you mentioned, we ran an interview with Governor Johnson back in Aug. '11, and we'll be providing complete election coverage in our December issue.

Championing Chong

Get well, Tommy Chong! You have always been my idol. Maybe your brave example will make you the one who gets marijuana legalized—not only for the people who don't want to go to jail for smoking, but for the people who really need it. Marijuana is a cure, and the



Legalizing marijuana is just good common sense, but our government has never been known for using common sense.

government needs to realize how much better the world would be if it was legal! But the real reason I'm commenting here is to say: Tommy Chong, you are a hero, star, leader and champion! Get well, my friend, and take it easy down that long, rough road you have ahead of you.

Zach

They Say It's Good Luck

Please tell all tokers to save their seeds until springtime and then put them in a bird feeder. Before long we'll have pot growing everywhere!

Cecil

Why We Need to Legalize

Legalizing marijuana is just good common sense, but our government has never been known for using common sense. My advice? Just keep hounding your elected officials with letters and it will sink in as time goes on. Be patient and keep writing! We all know how slow government can be, and we all know that legalization will not happen overnight; for some reason, they have to make sure they dot all the I's and cross all the T's before making it available to the masses. Why? I don't

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know, but that's the way it is. Hell, look how long it took for medical marijuana to come into play.

The government really needs to take a long, hard look at the revenue that would come out of legalizing marijuana. States would no longer have to raise taxes, and they'd be back in the black in no time.

Rob

Pot Apps

Who might we talk to regarding an article on mobile Web apps and text messaging and how they are helping dispensaries engage their patients 24/7?

Dan

The November issue will feature our first special section on high-tech consumer electronics, including a guide to cannabis-related apps.

Centerfold Snafu

I'm an avid reader and collector of your magazine. With that being said, I was quite disappointed to open the August 2012 issue (Oliver Stone on the cover) and find that the centerfold was Super Sour. Now this is quite a delicious and potent plant, but as a collector trying to put together a collage of all your centerfolds, it was disappointing to see the exact same centerfold of Super Sour that you ran in an issue from 2011. I'm surprised (and again, disappointed) that you couldn't find a new plant to feature. I hope this does not happen again.

Aaron S.

HT art director Frank Max replies: Whoa, I thought that one looked familiar! I gotta stop smokin' so much Super Sour!

Resistance in Our Ranks

After reading Russ Belville's article ("Resistance In Our Ranks" August '12 HT), I'm appalled that some medical dispensaries, growers and patients are among those who voted against Prop. 19. What shallow, contemptible hacks! Could their own greed have prompted this response? Are they that tragically naïve and dismally unsophisticated? Legal pot for all!

Steven from Erie, PA

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October 2012 **High Times**

HALLOWEED One early fall morning, a grower hiked into the wilds and came upon this spooky scene. A spider had set up house right next to his garden. The buds are hardly haunted though. The spiderweb actually protected the plants from pesky insects. *Photo by Lochfoot*

15

**Contact
High**

Contact High

HOW TO DO A DAB It's an old *High Times* tradition that whenever a particular method of smoking cannabis becomes popular, our sensi scientists get together in the secret HT lab and provide a step-by-step analysis of the process. Bob Marley showed us how to roll a spliff in the September '76 issue. Cypress Hill explained how to roll a blunt in the March '92 issue. The process of dabbing is a bit more involved. Here's a simple breakdown. *Photos by Dan Skye*

STEP 1

Load up the dabber with a BB-pellet-size measure of concentrate (approximately 0.05 grams) and set aside. Though some folks do more than this, too big a dab has been known to ruin a person's day. We recommend that beginners stick with a hit of this size or smaller. Since concentrates often come without any indication of their potency, caution—as opposed to excess—is the much better choice.

STEP 2

Light the torch, then heat the titanium nail with the blowtorch until it's glowing red.

STEP 4

Secure your lips on the mouth of the rig and begin to inhale. The dab will vaporize instantly, so you want to create a vacuum beforehand.

STEP 5

Touch the dab-loaded wand to the glowing top of the nail and continue inhaling. Do not attempt to pull the carb out, as everything in the vicinity of the nail will be extremely hot.

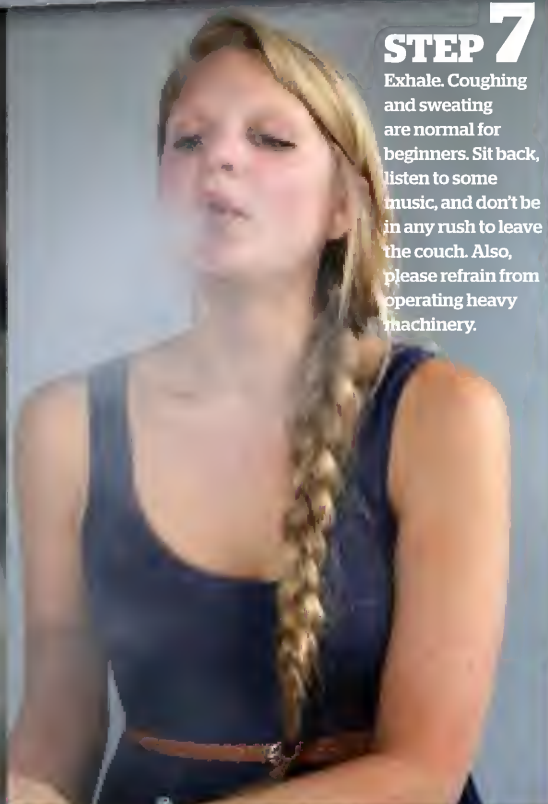
STEP 3

Place the glass dome over the glowing nail and let it cool for just a second or two.



STEP 6

Finish the hit until the concentrate is gone and the chamber is free of smoke.



STEP 7

Exhale. Coughing and sweating are normal for beginners. Sit back, listen to some music, and don't be in any rush to leave the couch. Also, please refrain from operating heavy machinery.

Equipment

1 rig

(in our case, a 2' Hitman bong, a converter piece containing a glass stem, a Highly Educated titanium nail and a glass dome)

1 propane torch

1 wand/dabber

(the tool used to dab the concentrate oil on the nail, courtesy of Skilletools)

1/2 gram of concentrate (enough for 10 hits).

In this instance, we're using a viscous hash oil, but concentrates come in several forms. If it looks like peanut butter, it's called "wax;" if it looks like lard, it's called "budder;" and if it looks like translucent or semi-opaque amber or dark glass, it's called "shatter." The THC content in concentrates is usually in the 65 to 75 percent range, but higher levels are available.



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THIS EPISODE: "SHOW & TELL!"

Highwitness News

Superstoner Willie Nelson lights up the Country Music Awards.



World

A Planet of Prohibition

Drug War reporter Bill Weinberg returns p.24



Food

Baklava Ganja Bombs

A reconstructed recipe from the Old Country p.34



Is Central America now a staging area for a heightened War on Drugs?



The Drug War Keeps On Growing

The DEA makes its presence known in a brutal raid in Honduras. *By Bill Weinberg*

Recent headlines from Honduras provided an uneasy sense of *déjà vu* for anyone who recalls the bad old days of the 1980s, when the US and its local proxy forces waged savage counterinsurgency wars all across Central America.

Residents of Ahuas village, on the remote Miskito Coast, took to the streets May 11 to protest a deadly military-style drug raid, demanding that the US Drug Enforcement Administration leave their territory—and putting government offices to the torch to make their point. Miskito Indian leaders also issued a statement declaring the DEA *persona non gratae* in their territory.

In the incident on the Río Patuca in the pre-dawn hours that morning, four people were killed—including two pregnant women—and another four wounded when DEA agents and members of the Honduran National Police in a US State Department–contracted helicopter flown by pilots from the Guatemalan military fired on a boat they apparently believed was filled with drug traffickers. Local residents say the victims were humble villagers who had nothing to do with drugs.

But it didn't end there. Witnesses say two choppers—marked with US flags—landed and disgorged some 50 heavily armed and uniformed men, who

proceeded to break down the doors of local homes. Residents were menaced at gunpoint and threatened with death as their modest abodes were ransacked by the men, who demanded information about one “El Renco.” The residents say that English-speaking “gringos”—presumably DEA agents—took part in the raids and thuggish interrogations, which lasted up to two hours.

US and Honduran officials tell a different story: They say two traffickers were killed in an operation that seized 1,000 pounds of cocaine as well as an M4 assault rifle. US officials also assert that no DEA agents fired their weapons, claiming that the shooting was done by Honduran police on the ground and a Honduran door-gunner in the helicopter. The officials insist that the DEA agents—part of a special squad called FAST, for Foreign-deployed Advisory Support Team—were barred by their rules of engagement from shooting unless fired upon. The DEA also denies that its agents actually entered the village.

An investigation by the Honduran Joint Military Task Force—Paz Garcia, based in nearby Puerto Lempira, only acknowledged the raid on the boat, concluding that the security agents fired on the civilians by mistake. “It’s terribly sad,” Col. Servio Arita told the *New York Times*. “It was an error.”

But José Miguel Vivanco, Americas director of Human Rights Watch, said in a statement: “If evidence demonstrates that security forces violated international standards, they must be held accountable.”

The US military presence in Honduras is fast escalating. The controversy comes just as the Pentagon’s Southern Command has established three new “forward operating bases,” or FOBs, to coordinate operations by the US military, DEA and Honduran armed forces and National Police. The FOBs ring the Miskito Coast, long known as a transfer point for cocaine and other contraband.

The US also has forces at the new

« Honduran naval base at Guanaja in the Bay Islands. Joint Task Force Bravo, SouthCom's Central America component, keeps 600 troops at its headquarters at the Soto Cano Air Base outside Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. In March, SouthCom commander Gen. Douglas Fraser told Congress that "the violence continues to increase in Central America, and that's where and why we are focusing there."

The Honduran security forces, meanwhile, are mired in multiple scandals involving murder, kidnapping, arms trafficking and corruption. The body of prominent radio journalist Angel Alfredo Villatoro Rivera was found in Tegucigalpa on May 15, six days after he was abducted. He'd been shot twice in the head, and local media reported that his body was dressed in a police uniform. Five people were arrested in the slaying—including a former agent of the elite Preventive Police.

In response to the revelation, Honduran President Porfirio Lobo Sosa fired the National Police chief—who had just been appointed last October in an earlier effort to crack down on corruption in the security forces. But the new chief, Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, was himself accused in 2002 of belonging to "Los Magnificos," a paramilitary group said

The Honduran security forces are mired in scandals involving murder, kidnapping, arms trafficking and corruption.



President Porfirio Lobo Sosa

to have carried out "extrajudicial executions" of suspected gang members. He was acquitted when the prosecutor quit the case.

Such attacks are growing at an alarming rate. The body of Honduran journalist and gay rights activist Erick Alex Martínez Ávila was found by the side of a highway near Tegucigalpa on May 7. The Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP) says Martínez Ávila was the 22nd Honduran journalist to be murdered since June 2009, when left-leaning

President José Manuel Zelaya was overthrown in a right-wing coup.

The election of "Pepe" Lobo in late 2009 was supposed to return Honduras to normalcy. But crime and drug-related violence have soared, along with claims of official corruption. In November 2011, the Tegucigalpa daily *El Heraldo* reported the disappearance of 300 automatic rifles from the elite police Cobras group. This led to speculation of police collaboration with resurgent paramilitary forces. A conflict between peasants and big landlords has led to several deaths in the fertile Lower Aguán Valley since the restoration of "legitimate" rule in Honduras.

In the 1980s—with "dirty wars" raging in neighboring Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala—Honduras was relatively stable under a military-dominated regime, and the US used it as a staging ground to police the entire isthmus. Today, Honduras is the battleground, even as it remains the US military beachhead for the region. However, the new "enemy" these days is drug trafficking rather than leftist guerrillas. ✨

HIGH FIVE

Top Anti-Pot Propagandists

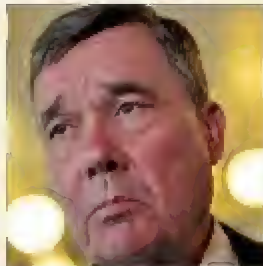
In politics, lying about marijuana is the name of the game.



John Lovell

Anti-Pot Lobbyist

Sacramento's John Lovell is a professional buzz-kill: He works to get federal money for California's cannabis eradication. Lovell's current clients include the California Police Chiefs Association and the California Correctional Supervisors Organization—both with a financial interest in keeping pot criminalized. In 2010, Lovell also managed the anti-Proposition 19 campaign to ensure that recreational pot wasn't legalized in the state.



Gil Kerlikowske

Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

When the White House received a petition advocating legalizing hemp, the nation's Drug Czar seemed unaware that hemp products are legal in the US. He wrote: "All parts of the plant, including hemp, can contain THC." Yeah, Gil—infinitesimal traces. For the record, hemp is a nonpsychoactive, agricultural cannabis crop bred specifically for fiber and seed products. Drug War idiocy never sleeps.



Sean Clarkin

Director of Strategy and Programs for Drugfree.org

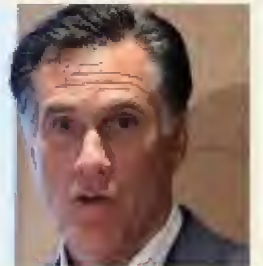
Sean Clarkin transformed the Partnership for a Drug-Free America into the new, Internet-oriented *Drugfree.org* to appeal to a younger demographic. He wants parents and children to have a dialogue about pot—as long as that dialogue ends up being completely against it. A former ad exec, he also works closely with the Drug Czar's office to make sure everyone's lies are in sync.



Dianne Feinstein

US Senator (D-CA)

Right-wingers paint the senior US senator from California as a liberal. Fat chance. Feinstein co-chaired the campaign to defeat Prop. 19 in 2010 and introduced the Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act in 2011, which would tack on an extra 10 years of federal prison time for those manufacturing cannabis edibles and drinks. Hard to believe Feinstein was once the mayor of our nation's pot capital, San Francisco.



Mitt Romney

Republican Presidential Candidate, US Sen. (R-MA)

When it comes to pot, President Romney would be worse than President Obama—and Obama's been pretty damn bad. Romney is completely opposed to medical marijuana and advocates the use instead of the highly ineffective synthetic-THC pill Marinol. He also resorts to ancient arguments, like pot is a "gateway drug." Electing Romney is a gateway to a harsher War on Drugs.

some secrets are worth sharing.



ask for sasquatch at your local smoke shop.

Minnesota Sleaze

Minnesota cops and county sheriffs statewide have been accused of providing pot to Occupy Minnesota protestors in order to gain information about their activities. Cops were filmed picking up numerous OMN protestors from Peavey Plaza in Minneapolis under the auspices of the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) training program, designed to teach officers how to detect drug-impaired drivers. According to OMN activists, after the cops picked them up, they drove them to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, gave them pot, watched them get high, and then talked with the freshly baked dissidents about the progress of OMN. Afterward, the cops would drive the protestors back downtown.

Some protestors state that cops contacted them hours later and offered them more weed if they would become regular informants. The story broke after a Hutchinson, MN cop allegedly tried to barter with OMN member Michael Bounds for intelligence by giving him a quarter-ounce. Bounds went to the media, but the State Patrol denied the accusation—then had to change their tune after a State Patrol officer said he'd witnessed the transaction.

Observers speculate that the action was intended to discredit the movement by making it appear that OMN was just about getting stoned. The state's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has launched a criminal probe into the matter.



Jack in the Basket

Jack Herer's legacy lives on with an eponymous strain, but it's the man we miss. In the wake of 500 dispensaries closing since last fall due to a federal crackdown, we sure could use a bit of the Hemperor's fire and brimstone to further stoke our outrage.

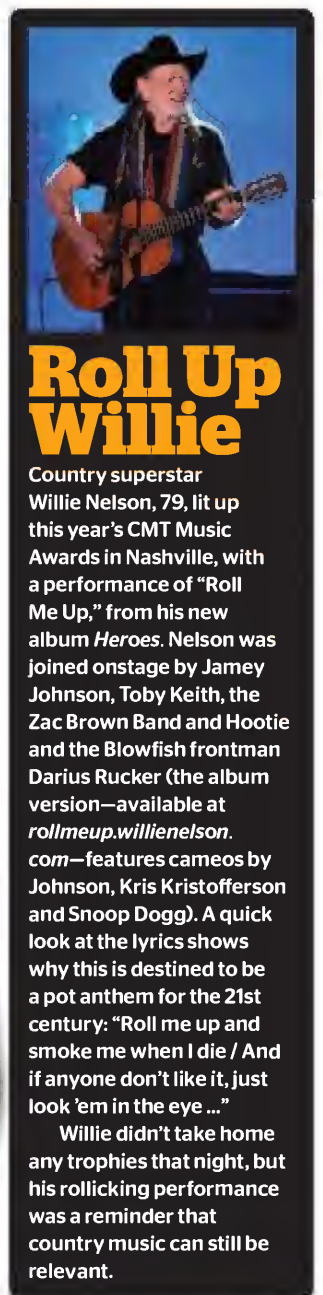
BEHIND BARS FOR HEMP

In June, David Bronner, the president and CEO of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, locked himself inside a steel cage in front of Lafayette Park in Washington, DC, with 10 pounds of hemp in order to draw attention to the federal government's ban on the crop. Lafayette Park is just across the street from the White House.

Bronner was inside the cage for almost three hours. Park police tried to cut him out of it using huge metal clippers, but it wasn't until firemen arrived with a chainsaw that Bronner could be removed and arrested.

Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps is based in Escondido, CA, and Bronner says he spends more than \$100,000 annually importing hemp oil from farmers in Canada to produce his soap. From inside the steel cage, Bronner spoke on a microphone: "Obama has promised a rational approach to policies. So far, as president, he has blown off the US hemp industry."

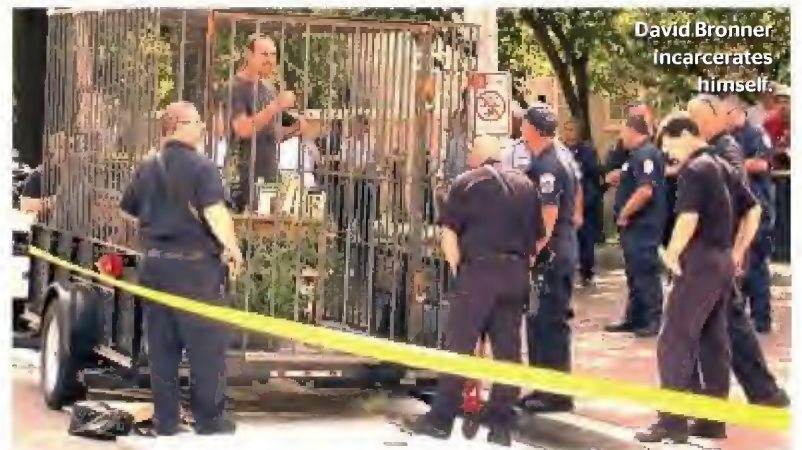
This isn't the first time that Bronner has used the nation's capital to stage pro-hemp protests. In 2010, he and a group of like-minded activists attempted to plant hemp seeds on the lawn of the DEA's headquarters. This time around, Bronner brought along his own stash of hemp plants, from which he proceeded to make fresh hempseed oil using an oil press. He even passed out oil-smearing bread through the bars to spectators.



Roll Up Willie

Country superstar Willie Nelson, 79, lit up this year's CMT Music Awards in Nashville, with a performance of "Roll Me Up," from his new album *Heroes*. Nelson was joined onstage by Jamey Johnson, Toby Keith, the Zac Brown Band and Hootie and the Blowfish frontman Darius Rucker (the album version—available at rollmeup.willienelson.com—features cameos by Johnson, Kris Kristofferson and Snoop Dogg). A quick look at the lyrics shows why this is destined to be a pot anthem for the 21st century: "Roll me up and smoke me when I die / And if anyone don't like it, just look 'em in the eye ..."

Willie didn't take home any trophies that night, but his rollicking performance was a reminder that country music can still be relevant.



David Bronner Incarcerates himself.

Mexico's Drug War impacts snack food.



Betcha Can't Firebomb Just One

The Mexican organized crime outfit known as the Knights Templar Cartel (KTC) claimed responsibility for the coordinated firebombing of five Sabritas potato and corn chip distribution centers in the states of Michoacán and Guanajuato in a nighttime attack in May. Dozens of the company's trucks were destroyed, but there were no casualties or injuries reported. Sabritas, which controls 80 percent of the snack food market in Mexico, is a subsidiary of the mammoth US-based multinational PepsiCo. Following the attacks, KTC displayed banners around the Michoacán city of Apatzingán declaring that Sabritas had been bombed for leasing its vehicles to Mexican law enforcement, which allegedly used the delivery trucks to conduct surveillance on KTC activities. The banners warned of future violent reprisals if the practice continued.

The Associated Press reported that it was the first known instance of a drug cartel methodically attacking an American-owned company in Mexico. Four arrests have been made, and law enforcement officers have since been providing protection at the Sabritas properties around the clock.

TOP 10 STONER SCHOOLS

Combining academic data and local pot quality, we've just made applying to college a whole lot easier.

SCHOOL	CANNABIS VIBE	POT	BEST LOCAL STRAIN	ACTIVISM	ACADEMIC STANDING
APPALACHIAN STATE <i>Boone, NC</i>	Considered the biggest stoner college in North Carolina and one of the top in the South.	Accessible and cheaper than most other campuses on this list.	Sour Diesel. You'll soar higher than the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains.	Has its own HEMP/NORML chapter. Known for liberal politics and "green" policies.	Ranked 10th regionally among all Southern universities.
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS <i>Austin, TX</i>	Pretty widespread, with casual, open smoking.	<i>Indica</i> is more prevalent than <i>sativa</i> , and homegrown more common than imports from Mexico.	Pure Kush. Not just delicious, but so awesome it's almost a shame to smoke it.	Has a SSDP chapter, and Austin's Texas Hemp Campaign helps stir the pot.	Ranked 45th nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN <i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>	For 40 years, the city of Ann Arbor has had some of the most lenient pot laws in the US.	Medical state, but students who aren't patients will never have problems scoring.	Big Blue loves Blue God, a God Bud/Blueberry cross	Has a NORML chapter, progressive local politics and the annual Hash Bash in April.	Ranked 28th nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER <i>Boulder, CO</i>	Often ranked as the No. 1 pot-smoking college in America.	Medical state. The quality of pot is virtually equal to California's.	Jack Flash, an <i>indica</i> -dominant hybrid that took second at our last Denver Medical Cannabis Cup.	Wide support for "Yes on 64" ballot measure.	Ranked 94th nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA <i>Gainesville, FL</i>	Most pot-friendly region in an otherwise oppressive state. Keep an eye out for campus police.	Plentiful, but establish safe connections.	Haze Skunk, blending the taste and intoxicating properties of these two popular strains.	Has its own NORML chapter.	Ranked 58th nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN <i>Madison, WI</i>	A liberal bastion in the Midwest. Open smoking. Police are relatively low-key on pot.	Find a good dealer. Availability can be difficult in snowy Madison.	White Widow. This <i>sativa</i> -dominant strain provides a heady high with a crisp pine taste.	The Great Midwest Harvest Festival, a three day potfest, happens every fall.	Ranked 42nd nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT <i>Burlington, VT</i>	A laid-back pot scene befitting a chill New England university.	Once ranked third in the US for pot smoking by the <i>Princeton Review</i> .	The pure <i>indica</i> power of the legendary Northern Lights.	Hosts decrim debates for the pro-pot group Marijuana Resolve.	Ranked 82nd nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON <i>Eugene, OR</i>	Another great hippie town. The Whiteaker District is a center of anarchism and good buds.	A medical state. Also, Oregon U is situated in one of the leading pot-producing regions of the US.	Try the HT Medical Cannabis Cup winner Mad Scientist, which boasts a whopping 23.9% THC.	Has a Students for Sensible Drug Policy chapter—or hook up with the Willamette Valley NORML.	Ranked 101st nationally.
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY <i>Tempe, AZ</i>	ASU says 86.9 percent of students don't toké—13 percent do. With 72,000 students, that's 9,000 stoners.	Medical state. Also, a notorious party school in a state adjacent to California.	White Russian. This <i>sativa/indica</i> hybrid blends AK-47 and White Widow for a clear-tasting, clear-minded high.	ASU Students for Liberty were out in force at this year's 4/20 throwdown.	Ranked 132nd nationally.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>	Solid decrim law in place. The annual 4/20 celebration here is one of the nation's best.	Medical dispensaries, local grows, buds from the Emerald Triangle. Paradise found.	Santa Cruz OG Kush, a splendid, slightly <i>indica</i> -dominant hybrid of OG Kush and Afghokey.	Progressive policies citywide. Santa Cruz has thoroughly embraced medical marijuana.	Ranked 75th nationally.



Teens Take Up

Most of us couldn't imagine life without cannabis. We celebrate the plant for its healing qualities, its capacity to amplify creativity and instill a sense of well-being. And now, many American teens concur.

A new study by the Centers for Disease Control reports that regular marijuana use among teens is now higher than that of cigarettes. Nationwide, 18.1 percent of high school students had smoked cigarettes on at least one day during the 30 days prior to the survey, while 23 percent had smoked pot.

Good news, right? Those anti-tobacco campaigns must be working. Unfortunately, teens' drug of choice is still booze: The study found that more than one in three high school students reported drinking alcohol in the last year, while one in five reported binge drinking.

THE GLOBAL BEAT

Updates on the War on Drugs from around the world. *By Bill Weinberg*



Eladio Aponte

Venezuela and the US Throw Down Gauntlet Over Narco Ties

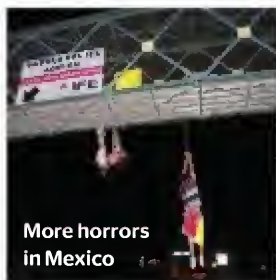
On May 16, Venezuela demanded that the US extradite a former Venezuelan Supreme Court judge who has accused high-ranking figures in the Hugo Chávez government of protecting drug traffickers. The fugitive judge, Eladio Aponte, was removed from office in March over charges that he had provided forged documents to an accused trafficker. Aponte has been cooperating with US authorities ever since his April 2 flight to Miami in a DEA-chartered plane. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro insists that the US must hand over Aponte, warning that Interpol has issued a “red notice” for his arrest.

From the US, Aponte has publicly claimed that Chávez’s office and top military officials asked him to be lenient in the case against an army lieutenant accused of trafficking. Maduro counters that the DEA is working to protect criminals and destabilize Venezuela, adding that if the US doesn’t return Aponte, Washington would become “direct accomplices of these drug-trafficking mafias.”

So now we have the US and Venezuela accusing each other of narco ties at the highest levels of government. Given the history of the region, they may both be right.

Colombia: “Armed Strike” Against Glyphosate Spraying

Large areas of Colombia’s lowland jungle department of Putumayo were shut down through much of May by a *paro armado*—a general strike enforced by the guns of FARC guerrillas, with roads and river traffic blocked by barricades. Putumayo Governor Jimmy Díaz Burbano said the strike was called in response to the government spraying of the herbicide glyphosate across the territory to wipe out coca-leaf crops. Díaz protested that the spraying—carried out by US State Department-chartered planes—hurts the campesinos and provokes a reaction from the illegal armed groups that buy their coca. He called for a reconsideration of the program, even though US and Colombian authorities have been ignoring such calls from local leaders for nearly 20 years.



More horrors in Mexico

“Black Friday” in Nuevo Laredo: 23 Dead

On May 14, in what the Mexican media are calling “Black Friday,” nine bodies—some bearing signs of torture—were hanged side by side from an overpass in the border city of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, while another 14 decapitated corpses were found stuffed in a minivan



FARC guerrillas try to stop glyphosate spraying.

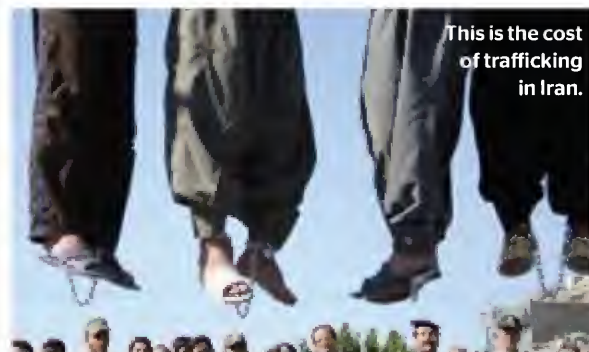
parked outside a customs inspection building; the heads were discovered in three ice coolers left outside the city hall. Four of those left hanging from the overpass were women; the decapitated bodies were all of men in their twenties.

A professionally printed “narco-banner” on the overpass read in block letters: “This is how I am going to finish off all the jerks you send to heat up the plaza”—apparently in reference to a car bomb that exploded in the city center on April 24, targeting the police and injuring one person. The banner ended with the following warning: “We’ll see you around, you bunch of whorish parasites.” Authorities said the message appeared to be from Los Zetas and was addressed to their local rivals in the Gulf Cartel. Mexico’s federal government has launched an operation dubbed “North-east Coordinator” in response to the factional violence in Tamaulipas.

Mexico: Journalists Targeted in Wave of Torture Killings

The body of Mexican journalist Marco Antonio Ávila García, kidnapped three days earlier in Ciudad Obregón in the state of Sonora, was found May 19 along a beachside highway near

Guaymas in a plastic bag, bearing signs of torture and with a threatening “narco-message.” Ávila had written for the Ciudad Obregón newspapers *Diario Sonora de la Tarde* and *El Regional de Sonora*. It was the most recent killing in a wave of attacks on the press in Mexico. One week earlier, the office of *El Mañana* in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, was sprayed with bullets. Days before that, three freelance crime-beat photographers were assassinated in Veracruz. In late April, Regina



This is the cost of trafficking in Iran.

Martínez, a reporter for the national weekly *Proceso*, was found dead after being tortured in her home in Xalapa, also in Veracruz state.

On May 16, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) urged an end to the brutal killing of journalists and human rights advocates in Mexico. The UN and IACHR called on the Mexican government

to officially enact the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, which mandates protective measures for those at risk. The bill has been passed by both chambers of Congress, but has yet to be officially signed into law by President Felipe Calderón.

Iran Executes Nine on Drug-Trafficking Charges

On May 21, Iran executed nine convicted drug traffickers at a Tehran prison. Seven of the men were hanged in connection with the confiscation of 500 kilograms of methamphetamine from a cargo ship bound for Southeast Asia. The other two men were convicted of trafficking another 420 kilograms of meth. Amnesty Inter-

national reported that Iran executed at least 360 people in 2011, most of them on drug-related charges. Together with China, Saudi Arabia and the United States, Iran is one of the world’s leading practitioners of the death penalty.

Nice company for the “land of the free” to find itself in, eh? 🌱

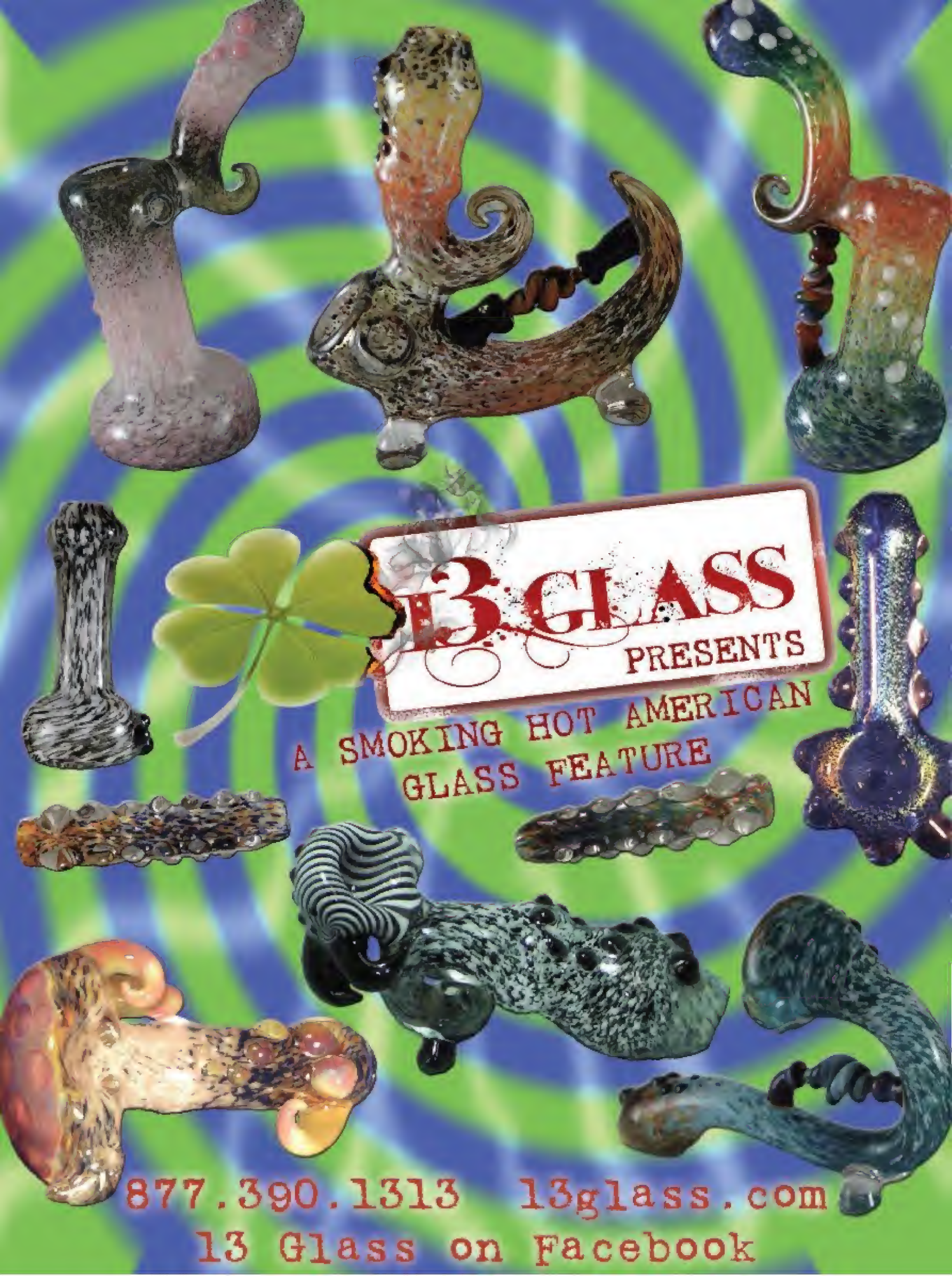
For world updates, visit *Bill Weinberg’s websites*, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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“Amsterdam sucks dick!” The Biters shout when the topic is broached.

Brown succinctly puts it, “there ain’t nothin’ to do but get high.”

Now the dudes are rock stars, or well on their way, staggering and swaggering through the US and Europe and still getting plenty high. So they probably love Amsterdam, right?

“Amsterdam sucks ass!” “Amsterdam

sucks *dick!*” the Biters shout when the topic is broached. “I can’t tell what’s set up for dumb tourists and what’s actual, culture-rich heritage,” says Gabs.

O’Brien speaks through a cloud of smoke: “I found hash.” The other band members snort.

With that, the Biters’ 15 minutes are up, though not their quarter-hour of fame—hopefully they’ll go bigger, harder, longer in that department, but if they don’t leave now, they’ll be late for a load-in that will see the skinny-legged foursome hauling amps up and down a steep flight of stairs. Winter will find the boys back in Europe. Amsterdam may or may not deliver this time, but one thing’s for certain: The Best Band in America will!

For more on the Biters, visit wearethebiters.com.

Bite Me

Atlanta quartet the Biters like to rock, and they’re on a roll. *By Polly Watson*

Tearing ass out of Atlanta, these tattooed hellions aren’t among the currently fashionable ranks churning out jangly lo-fi pop or doomy, National Public Radio–sponsored metal. The Biters live up to their name, gobbling up songs by Cheap Trick, KISS, and the Exploding Hearts and spitting them back out with the lettuce where the ham used to be and vice versa. They’ve got looks for now and hooks forever, and neither is lost on the masses. Check out a live show or stay home and stalk their Facebook page and you’ll learn quick: Pretty girls love them; children love them; rocker dudes, new moms and old people love them. Kids are getting tattoos of the three-eyed tiger head that graces the band’s third EP in as many years (which came out on eight-track, thank you very much). Even the

hipper-than-thou indie online rag *My Old Kentucky Blog* lost their shit and proclaimed the Biters “the Best Band in America.”

It’s a rainy winter afternoon, and the members of that very band are dressed in their Sunday finest—denim and leather, the tighter the better—and getting really, really high in a friend’s Brooklyn living room. Well, at least some of them are.

“I don’t smoke,” announces guitarist and lead singer Tuk Smith, jamming a fistful of weed into a piece of bread that one of the apartment’s tenants has handed him. He folds it into the shape of a hot dog bun and sees how far he can stuff it in his mouth. “It makes me *crazy!*”

“It does,” agrees guitarist Matt Gabs, who’s scouting for more props behind a partially denuded sofa. When the Biters

learned there wasn’t enough weed at the photo shoot to fill a bathtub, their faces fell, but they quickly rallied. Bassist Travis Brown, Smith’s little brother, is cashed on the couch clutching a brandy snifter filled with buds; next to him, drummer Joey O’Brien sucks steadily on a lumpy, ragged-looking spliff the size of a tree.

Smith points at him: “Joey’s a weed hound.” No matter what city the Biters find themselves in, O’Brien “sniffs it out,” says Brown. Though the drummer, at 23, is the youngest in the band, it was Smith, the nonsmoker, who discovered weed at the tenderest age. “Eleven,” he says proudly. “I went to a girls’ softball game, and I was so fucking high I fell off the bleachers.” Except for Gabs, who hails from Baltimore, the Biters grew up in tiny Southern towns where, as



Sometimes the Weed Tastes a Little Funky

The Biters aren’t afraid to travel with weed, and the band carries “as much as [drummer Joey O’Brien] can swallow. Once he stuffed a weed bag up his butt,” offers vocalist Tuk Smith. “Don’t put that in the interview,” O’Brien pleads.



“Marijuana definitely made crackheads look even more crazy. It saved the hood by making it uncool to smoke crack.”

smoked purple weed was with him. I had some Durban Poison, and it was velvet purple. It was so purple, it was almost *black!*”

DZA notes that for weed connoisseurs, Sour Diesel is the strain of choice in Harlem these days—but given the rough economic times, it’s not an option for everyone. “Sour Diesel is like Gucci,” he says. “Then you have people that still smoke regular green weed. A lot of people can’t afford to smoke Purple or Sour Diesel; it’s not accessible to them.”

DZA also recalls what it was like growing up in Harlem before the more potent strains of weed became available on the streets. Other drugs like crack were prevalent then and ruining the community. “Growing up in the late ’80s, early ’90s, crack was still strong in the hood. And not just old people were smoking crack—young people, too. That was *the thing*.” Luckily, when high-grade pot was introduced, it gave people a safer alternative for getting high. Remembers DZA: “Marijuana definitely made crackheads look even more crazy. It saved the hood by making it uncool to smoke crack.” You had to be a fool to smoke crack, especially once these amazing strains of pot came into the picture, DZA says. “Everyone realized they should just smoke pot, because you *never* heard of somebody dying off pot.” *Zoot Simms*

The Kushed God Cometh

Harlem rapper Smoke DZA remembers growing up on pot—and how it might have saved his community.

Harlem MC Smoke DZA has created a huge buzz for himself during the past few years with a slew of celebrated mix tapes and feature appearances. Last year, he released his debut album *Rolling Stoned* to rave reviews, and now he’s about to drop the follow-up, *Rugby Thompson*.

DZA says his love for music came from his upbringing: “My dad is a big fan of music—he has a crazy record collection and always spun records in the crib every weekend.” But while DZA stems from a music-loving lineage, smoking weed was in his blood, too. “My dad was Smoke DZA before me,” says the New York rapper, who was initially curious about all the Phillies Blunts in his father’s room as a kid. “So as soon as I started smoking

weed, my dad knew. After I turned 18, I just stopped hiding it from him.”

As it happened, DZA was able to benefit from his father’s years of weed wisdom. He laughs at the memory of his dad warning him about the neighborhood dealers: “If you’re going to smoke, don’t buy it from over there, because their shit is *wack!*”

Although DZA fell in love with smoking at an early age, it wasn’t until he hit the road on the Smokers Club Tour that he really refined his pot palate. Traveling the world with fellow weed connoisseurs like Method Man and Curren\$y (who appears on the track “Baleedat” off *Rugby Thompson*) helped to hone his taste buds. “The Bay Area has the best pot in the world.

You haven’t experienced a real high until you’ve been to the Bay Area to smoke,” asserts the self-proclaimed Kushed God. “Platinum Cookie, Triple-X and King Henry had me just acting crazy—I went on a food tour, hitting the trippy stick in all the local restaurants as we went along.”

Also a big fan of his hometown weed scene, Smoke remembers the first time he saw purple pot. “Shiest Bubz [of Dipset/Purple City] brought Purple to Harlem,” DZA recalls with a touch of pride. “The first time I ever



From “Ashtray” by Rugby Thompson:

“OG Kush I used to ounce that fuck a little money up it helped me bounce back/ I know it sounds absurd, nigga living off herb/ but everybody in the world needs that loud pack.”

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Cadaver Dogs

Cadaver Dogs will tear off your eyelids, slip into your synapses and chew up your brain with all the smooth ferocity of a black mamba on bath salts. They're already taking over your consciousness, and there's nothing you can do about it.

After releasing a pair of feral EPs since their 2010 inception, the Dogs are set to deliver their highly anticipated full-length debut album, *superloose*, later this year—a mesmerizing array of delirium-inducing rock ragers and kaleidoscopic freak-outs for those adventurous enough to walk the line. This ain't



no ordinary fucking music—it's a high-octane rock 'n' roll hallucination.

One live show is all it takes to cause a frothing first-timer to be carried off in fits of rabid ecstasy. Though the Dogs have built an impressive army of faithful converts through steadfast national touring, they'll continue pounding pavement and twisting brain cells until there's no one left to corrupt.

For more info on Cadaver Dogs, including audio samples and tour dates, visit hightimes.com/cadaverdogs.



High Hunters

For this Brooklyn-based duo, getting stoned kind of hurts.

Cracked elbows, scarred faces, bruised knees—these are a few of the onstage injuries suffered under the influence of marijuana by the metal-meets-riot-grrrrl duo known as Hunters. “One time, I hit my head on the floor during a show,” recalls singer Isabel Almeida, a Brazilian-raised banshee whose doe-like features belie her shock of punk-platinum hair. “I was going nuts, and I went to bang my head on the floor.” She toked again after the gig to dull the headache. A day later, a doctor told her that her head was still throbbing because she had a concussion. “That was very ridiculous,” she observes, adding: “That was a stoner thing.”

Ever since then, Almeida and singer-guitarist Derek Watson, who serves as her chilled-out foil, save their smokes (preferred method: vaporizing) for post-performance celebrations. Giving up weed entirely isn't really an option for them, because it played such an integral role in the Brooklyn-based band's gestation. The day they met, “I was super-stoned and saying a bunch of crazy jokes,” Almeida recalls. Watson, originally from Pittsburgh, was intrigued enough by their discussion of the Melvins to invite her to a show by doom-metal progenitors Pentagram.

They bonded over metal after she snooped through his iPod and spotted songs by Mike Schank, the shy heshier-musician from the 1999 cult documentary *American Movie*. “I ordered it from him,” Watson explains while Almeida looks on appreciatively. “You could call him up in his

mother's basement.”

Fittingly, the first time the two smoked together was in the studio. “In terms of creating music, there was almost no talking,” Watson says. “It just happened. Lyrics and parts of songs materialized out of nowhere.” Though often born from a haze, their compositions are jerky tugs-of-war steeped in sexual tension (check out their *Hands on Fire* EP). And they've won the admiration of everyone from the edgy UK fashion bible *Dazed & Confused* to that elder statesman of sober reportage, the *New York Times*.

“It's really funny,” Almeida says in hindsight. “We were kind of communicating with each other through the lyrics.” (The duo is now a couple.) That subtext-heavy dialogue can be heard in the track “Deadbeat,” a thumping call-and-response that's fast become their anthem.

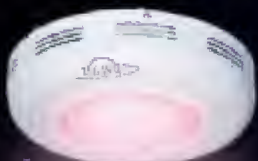
Their biggest concern these days seems to be how to score on the road. “Ohhhh, that's a really good question,” Watson says, before admitting that they often rely on the kindness of strangers.

At last year's SXSW, they were crashing at an abandoned house when its bizarre owner suddenly showed up. “The only thing there was this picture of him with big hair from the '80s and, like, roach traps all over the place,” Watson says. “We were weirded out—until the landlord busted out some weed. We were like, ‘Yes!’” They sigh wistfully at the memory. Coos Almeida: “Best weed ever.” *Nisha Gopalan*

Though often born from a haze, their compositions are jerky tugs-of-war steeped in sexual tension.

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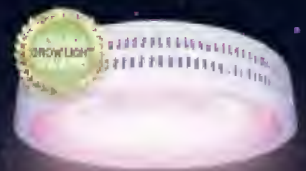
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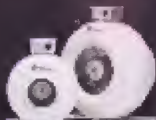
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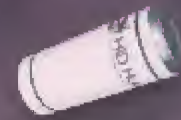
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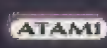
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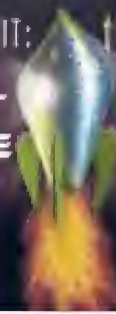


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Ganjournalism

Seems like the subject that *High Times* has been covering all these years has become irresistible to the mainstream media.



Author Mark Haskell Smith examines the buds.

Thanks to the growth of the medical cannabis industry, the hardened veterans of the underground pot trade have by now seen the arrival of folks who, decades earlier, would never have been caught dead near a trim. These people bring with them a variety of new perspectives on the game, even as they learn and repeat the oft-told tales of marijuana's legal history, medicinal uses and industrial capabilities. In the case of two new books by crime novelist/screenwriter Mark Haskell Smith (*Playing God*) and NPR correspondent/sustainability journalist Doug Fine, those perspectives are framed as first-person investigations into this (*ahem*) budding industry, written by outsiders for outsiders. Though *Too High to*



Heart of Dankness: Underground Botanists, Outlaw Farmers and the Race for the Cannabis Cup

Mark Haskell Smith
(Broadway Books)



Too High to Fail: Cannabis and the New Green Economic Revolution

Doug Fine
(Gotham Books)

Fail ostensibly covers the 2011 Mendocino harvest season under Sheriff Tom Allman's "9.31 program" for medical cannabis registration, Fine prefers to spend as many pages as possible on his favorite subject—himself. With narcissistic glee, he interjects anecdotes about his goat farm in New Mexico, his veggie-powered 4x4 and his sweet book deal whenever it suits him. Not so with Mark Haskell Smith, who embodies the modern-day connoisseur. Intrigued by the elusive quality of "dank" bud, Smith travels from the California Sierras to the *High Times* Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam in order to penetrate the term. He proves himself an affable and likeable tour guide, only occasionally succumbing to the kind of self-indulgence that sinks Fine's book. *Justin Hampton*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Jethro Tull
Thick as a Brick 2
(Capitol/EMI)

➤ Ian Anderson celebrates the 40th anniversary of Tull's progressive-rock classic with a sequel to the story of schoolboy Gerald Bostock, now 50 years old (for cryin' out loud). The convoluted plot of the original *Thick as a Brick* was a bit hard to follow, though not crucial to the album's appeal. Likewise

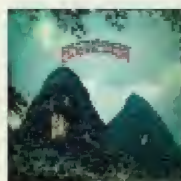
TAAB 2, which twists through many episodic bits featuring intricate flute-organ-guitar interplay atop devilishly complicated thematic development and tricky time-signature whiplashery. Tull fans will feel right at home with the sequel's old-school proggy charms. *John Payne*



Beachwood Sparks
Tarnished Gold
(Sub Pop)

➤ Beachwood Sparks released a pair of well-regarded albums and an EP on Sub Pop before breaking up in 2002. Inspired by the late-'60s country/psych/folk of the Byrds and Gram Parsons, the band's ambling pedal steel, sweet harmonies and Cali-folk twang conjured up a bright,

dreamy, iridescent roots pop. Now they've returned as colorful and soothing as a Pacific sunset. Highlights are "Sparks Fly Again," which suggests the Syd Barrett-era Pink Floyd jamming in a honky-tonk, and the lullaby "Nature's Light." The timing's right for the return. *Chris Parker*



Anywhere
Anywhere
(ATP)

➤ Sure, Mars Volta vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala can sing, but who knew he can play drums, too? On *Anywhere*, the new LP from the new band of the same name, Bixler-Zavala's precision percussion coalesces with acid-punk guitarist Christian Eric Beaulieu's mix of unplugged jangling

and electric overlays, as evidenced on the book-ending instrumentals "Pyramid Mirrors" and "Infrared Moses." Bass god Mike Watt shines on "Shaman Mantra," and Bixler-Zavala and guest vocalist Rachel Fannan share the wails on "Rosa Rugosa" and "Dead Golden West." *Mark Miller*



Call of the Wild
Leave Your Leather On
(Kemado)

➤ I've lived my whole life by a two-pronged creed: God hates a coward, and saxophone gets a dollar. My passionate love for this band is solidly in line with this philosophy, except that instead of a shitty street-corner rendition of "Baker Street," COTW deliver a wrathful, wild-eyed breed of

street-hard rock. The vocals and chord changes are full-on Mötörhead, raw and primitive and rocketing in from crazy nowhere, while the guitar solos are Thin Lizzy from clone-desolate Planet Post-Punk. For "Auto-bahn" and "Choked Out" alone, this band can haz all my dollarz. *Polly Watson*

GAME RECOMMENDATIONS



Max Payne 3
(Rockstar Games)

➤ Since the last time we saw Max Payne, the renegade former DEA agent and NYPD detective has dropped his signature dual pistols in favor of a constant cocktail of whiskey and painkillers. Needless to say, the years haven't been too kind to old Max. The graphics in *Max Payne 3* are stunning,

a testament to Rockstar's development muscle, but the bright environs and wardrobe changes don't stand up to the snowy noir backdrops and bullet-riddled leather from Payne's previous life. But, our character shines once he sobers up and starts distributing justice with his usual heavy hand. *Tyler Stewart*



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MUNCHIES

Baklava Ganja Bombs

A dessert that's heavy on the butter, but kind on your brain.

The act of baking is a therapeutic thing, whether or not it involves marijuana. And for me, there's nothing more meditative than going in deep on a pan of homemade baklava until the buttery goodness is ready for consumption. Since it's an involved recipe, I'm going to let these stony mouthfuls of baked bliss speak for themselves. *Mary Ought Six*

BAKLAVA GANJA BOMBS

Baklava:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- ½ ounce finely ground cannabis
- 4 ½ cups chopped nuts (my favorite combo is walnuts with a cup or so of almonds and pistachios thrown in the mix)
- 1 lb. phyllo dough
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ⅓ tsp. ground cloves

Syrup:

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup honey
- 2 tbs. lemon juice
- 1 cinnamon stick

Prepare phyllo dough according to instructions on the package. Next, put the cup of butter in a double boiler and melt slowly over low heat. Gradually stir in the ground cannabis. Keep the heat low, stirring occasionally for 40 minutes. (Promptly remove from heat if the pot smells like it's browning.) Strain the green matter through cheesecloth. You'll need the butter while it's still melted, so this is not the time for a rally joint; try to do the next steps while the cannabutter infuses.

Lightly grease a 9" x 13" pan and set the oven to 325°F. Mix your chopped nuts with the sugar, ground cinnamon and ground cloves. Lay the phyllo flat and cut in half or trim appropriately to fit the pan. Keep a damp towel loosely over the top of the dough, removing only a few sheets at a time as

you're using them.

Place a sheet of phyllo dough into the pan. Using a pastry brush, brush the phyllo sheet with the melted cannabutter. Repeat seven times so the pan is eight sheets deep, each one evenly brushed with butter. Next, spread a thin, even layer of nuts over the top buttered phyllo sheet. Lay out two more sheets over the nuts, brushing each one with (yum) butter. Repeat this step until the nut mixture is gone. Top the final nut layer with another eight phyllo sheets, each individually buttered, including the top one.

Cut the uncooked baklava into 24 squares (diagonally if you're feeling deft and fancy) using a very sharp knife. Bake at 325°F for 35 to 40 minutes, until the top is a light golden brown and the edges are slightly crisped.

While the baklava bakes, prepare the syrup. Combine the cinnamon stick, sugar, lemon juice, honey and water in a saucepan. Bring the goo to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low. Simmer until slightly thickened, around seven minutes. Remove the cinnamon stick and allow to cool. Finally, spoon the cooled syrup over the baklava while it's hot and fresh, then cool for at least four hours. Garnish with crushed pistachios if desired. *Stones 24.*

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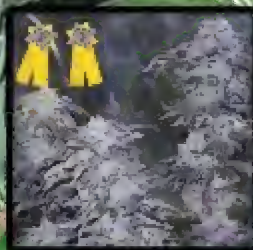
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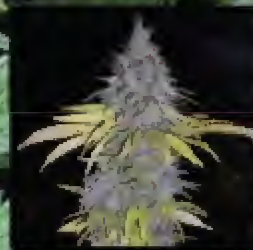
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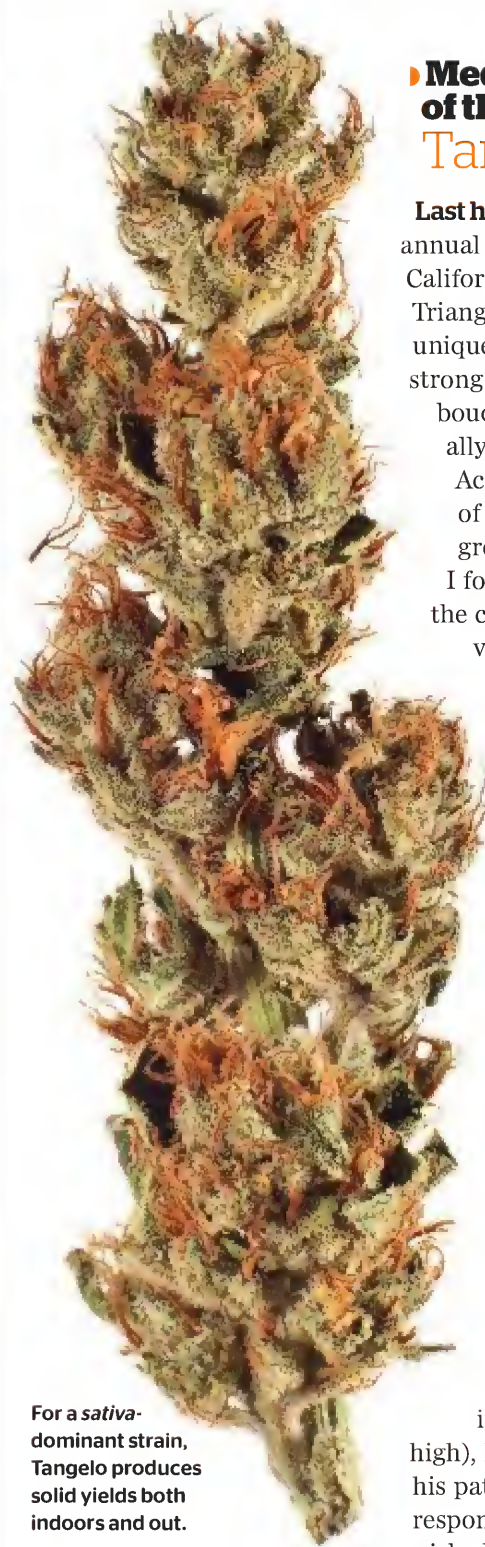
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Medical Strain of the Month: Tangelo

Last harvest season, on an annual pilgrimage to Northern California's famed Emerald Triangle, I came across a unique strain with such a strong citrus-meets-perfume bouquet that the smell literally drew me to the plant. Across a crowded hillside of fully flowering, sun-grown cannabis bushes, I followed my nose past the customary rows of Kush varieties and purple *indicas* to a small cluster of *sativa*-dominant plants marked "Tangelo." Upon arrival, I rubbed a sugar leaf gently between thumb and forefinger and held it up to my nose to confirm that the aroma really was that sweet.

A few months later, after acquiring a small sample of the frosty finished product and finding it an excellent, uplifting, medicinal-grade smoke laden with flavinoids and terpenes (not to mention buzzing with a soaring THC high), I asked the grower how his patients liked it. His only response was to tell me he wished he'd planted a whole lot more, and would be doing

just that the following season.

"The Tangelo is a Lake County, CA, variety developed by a breeder named Ed. Originally, it was the recessive cross of a female Chem Dog cutting with a Burmese male," my source in the field revealed. "There's original Tangelo (T1), which is super-stinky. And now there's T2, which is more of the Burmese phenotype, so it yields bigger, but not as citrusy?"

A solid yielder both indoors and out, Tangelo's strong flavors develop best using organic soil and fertilizers. (These particular growers also had success with it in a light-dep greenhouse.) Flowering takes about 10 weeks.

Medicinal patients seeking *sativa*-like effects to treat Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, depression, loss of appetite and related ailments should pay special attention to this up-and-coming medical cannabis strain. *David Bienenstock*

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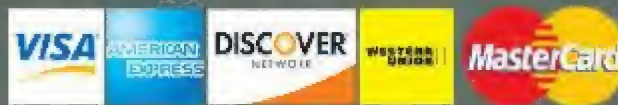
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Taking a hit of tasty herb from a bowl or bong shouldn't come with a big mouthful of burning butane gas. That's why we love the cordless electronic lighter called the **Embur**, an ingenious portable device that utilizes a ceramic heating element to ignite your bud, hash or oil without any of the hassles of torches or lit hemp ropes. It heats up quickly and is also windproof, allowing you to enjoy the full flavor of your pot products anytime, anywhere.

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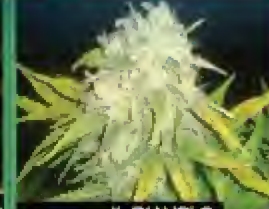
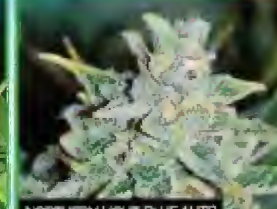
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 MARMALITE 3 seeds: 18,50 € 5 seeds: 26,00 € 10 seeds: 49,00 €	 CRITICAL SENS STAR 3 seeds: 29,50 € 5 seeds: 42,00 € 10 seeds: 82,00 €	 SUGAR BLACK ROSE 3 seeds: 26,50 € 5 seeds: 36,00 € 10 seeds: 68,00 €	 FRUITY CHRONIC JUICE 3 seeds: 26,50 € 5 seeds: 36,00 € 10 seeds: 67,00 €	 BLACK RUGMAN 3 seeds: 30,00 € 5 seeds: 41,00 € 10 seeds: 80,00 €	 CRITICAL YUMBOLT 3 seeds: 23,00 € 5 seeds: 32,00 € 10 seeds: 75,00 €	 CHEESE CANDY 3 seeds: 26,50 € 5 seeds: 42,00 € 10 seeds: 82,00 €
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Afghan kush x yumbolt Mazar x great white shark Northern light x skunk



Afghan kush x black domina Afghan kush x skunk Afghan kush x white widow



Mazar x White rhino

THC: 20% CBD: 0.9% CBN: 0.25%
Without any doubt, this is one of our best medical strains due to its high THC content and relaxing properties. Perfect for cancer chemotherapy and nausea derived from its treatment.



Northern light x Big Bud

THC: 18% CBD: 0.23% CBN: 1.25%
Alleviates symptoms of depression as it is a natural mood raiser. Stimulates appetite and alleviates cachexia.

The Medical Collection



	3 seeds	7 seeds	12 seeds
AFGHAN KUSH x BLACK DOMINA	19.50 €	45.50 €	74 €
AFGHAN KUSH x WHITE WIDOW	20 €	46.50 €	76 €
AFGHAN KUSH x YUMBOLT	18 €	42 €	69 €
AFGHAN KUSH x SKUNK	18.50 €	43 €	71 €
MAZAR x GREAT WHITE SHARK	18.50 €	43 €	71 €
MAZAR x WHITE RHINO	19.50 €	45.50 €	74 €
NORTHERN LIGHT x SKUNK	18.50 €	43 €	71 €
NORTHERN LIGHT x BIG BUD	25 €	57 €	95 €



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TOP 5 STRAINS

1
KUSH
\$367

2
DIESEL
\$381

3
PURPS
\$334

4
HAZE
\$284

5
WHITE WIDOW
\$342

(OG Kush)
"This is what we're smoking down here in the Deep South!"
Jackson, MS

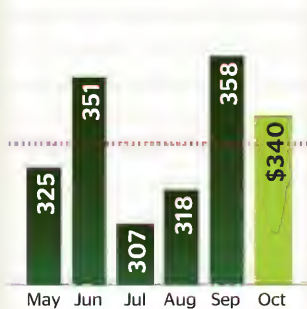
(Sour OG Kush)
"The best of both worlds for OG and Sour Diesel fans!"
Detroit, MI

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

The US Price, Kind and Mids indices all experienced increases in average price last month. However, all three finished below last month's average. The Mids Index experienced the biggest drop-off, plummeting \$35 and finishing October \$12 below its year-to-date average. Meanwhile, the Schwag Index closed the month \$13 above September's average.

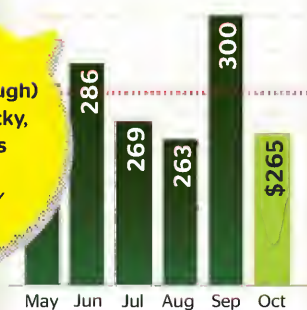
US Price Index
YTD Average: \$331



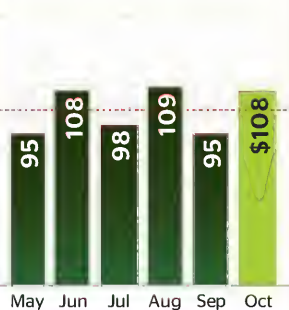
Kind Index
YTD Average: \$413



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$277



Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$102



(Strawberry Cough)
"Extremely sticky, dense, smells amazing!"
Louisville, KY

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alabama	Mobile	OG Kush	\$400
Arizona	Phoenix	Jack Herer	450
Arkansas	El Dorado	Skywalker OG Blueberry Headband The Church El Nino	450 420 420 420
California	Los Angeles Sacramento San Diego San Francisco	Silver Haze Cheese Organic Sour Diesel Blue Dream	325 250 350 300
Colorado	Durango Pueblo	Chiesel White Widow Purple Kush Golden Goat	200 200 300 350
Connecticut	New London	Lowryder	280
Florida	Orlando	Triangle Kush	480
Hawaii	Big Island	White Widow Cheese Purple Haze OG Kush	450 200 200 400
Kansas	Wichita	Outdoor	350
Kentucky	Louisville	Strawberry Cough Diesel Sour Diesel	450 500 375
Massachusetts	Haverhill	Northern Lights	350
Michigan	Detroit	Sour OG Kush Granddaddy Urkle	420 420
Minnesota	Winona	Master Kush Blue Dream	360 360
Mississippi	Jackson	OG Kush	325
New Hampshire	Portsmouth	Apollo 13 Diesel	425 375
New Jersey	Jersey City	Chem Dog	450
New York	New York	Strawberry Cough LSD Burmese Kush White Widow	400 350 300 375
Oregon	Eugene	Kosher Kush Buddha Tahoe	320 280
Ohio	Columbus	Purple Haze	400
Tennessee	Clarksville Nashville	Granddaddy Purps Blue Dream Mexican	350 350 110
Texas	Tyler	OG Kush	280
Washington	Kitsap County	Super Silver Haze	210
INTERNATIONAL			
Canada	Hamilton Saint John	Black Domina Super Lemon Haze White Frost	C\$250 235 200

We want to know what you're smoking! Submit your strain information, location and price by the ounce to thmq@hightimes.com or on Twitter using #THMQ.

(Mexican)
"Bullshit brick weed. OK for cooking I guess—forget smoking it."
Nashville, TN



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- HYDRO 4X8 GROW ROOM: \$1,889.99
- SOIL 3X3 GROW ROOM: \$639.99
- SOIL 4X4 GROW ROOM: \$679.99
- SOIL 4X8 GROW ROOM: \$1,249.99

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- 1,000 WATT HPS BULB: \$39.99
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- 1,000 WATT MH BULB: \$34.99
- 600 WATT CONVERSION BULB: \$59.99
- 1,000 DUAL ARC BULB: \$69.99



Complete digital system includes dimmable digital ballast, bulb, wing reflector and light hangers.

- 400 WATT DIGITAL SYSTEM: \$127.99
- 600 WATT DIGITAL SYSTEM: \$165.99
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COMPLETE DIGITAL LIGHT SYSTEMS



Complete magnetic system includes ballast, bulb, wing reflector and light hangers.

- 400 WATT MAGNETIC SYSTEM: \$129.99
- 600 WATT MAGNETIC SYSTEM: \$169.99
- 1,000 WATT MAGNETIC SYSTEM: \$169.99

COMPLETE MAGNETIC LIGHT SYSTEMS

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- 14 SITE VALUE CLONER: \$42.99
- 55 SITE BUBBLE CLONER: \$146.95



Complete vertical system includes ballast, bulb & 19" cool tube. Upgrade to 48" and 60" cool tubes upon request.

- 400 WATT VERTICAL DIGITAL SYSTEM: \$289.99
- 600 WATT VERTICAL DIGITAL SYSTEM: \$299.99
- 1,000 WATT VERTICAL DIGITAL SYSTEM: \$349.99
- 400 WATT VERTICAL MAGNETIC SYSTEM: \$269.99
- 600 WATT VERTICAL MAGNETIC SYSTEM: \$279.99
- 1,000 WATT VERTICAL MAGNETIC SYSTEM: \$289.99

COMPLETE VERTICAL LIGHT SYSTEMS

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HIGH TIMES 2012 WINNER

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ROMULAN HASH PLANT
ROMULAN X DIESEL
TIMEWARP
FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
GRAPE FRUIT DIESEL
GRAPE GOD
LEMONATOR
NY PURPLE DIESEL
BLUE BERRY PUNCH



FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
ACID
ALL KUSH
AUTOMARIA #1 (AUTO FLOWER)
AUTOMARIA #2 (AUTO FLOWER)
DELAHAZE
ICE CREAM
JACKY WHITE
OPIUM
SENSI STAR
SHEHERAZADE
SPOETNIK
NEBULA
VERTIGO (AUTO FLOWER)
WHITE BERRY
WAPPA



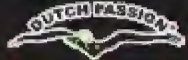
FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
CANNATONIC
CRITICAL HAZE
SOUP P



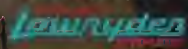
5 FEM / 12 REG ALL FEM
TRINITY KUSH
ROYAL PURPLE KUSH
LEMON DIESEL



WYKKAH PACKS OF TEN
JILLY BEAN
JACK THE RIPPER
QUERKLE
GLEANER
SPACE QUEEN
VORTEX



FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
AUTO BLUBERRY (AUTO FLOWER)
BLUEBERRY
BRAINSTORM
DUTCH CHEESE
DURBAN POISON
EUFORIA
JORGE'S DIAMONDS
MAZAR
ORTEGA INDICA
PAMIR GOLD
PASSION # 1
POWER PLANT
PURPLE # 1
SKUNK # 11
SNOW BUD
STRAWBERRY COUGH
THE ULTIMATE
ULTRA SKUNK
WHITE WIDOW
AUTO MAZAR (AUTO FLOWER)



FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
EASY RYDER (AUTO FLOWER)
LOWRYDER (AUTO FLOWER)
LOWRYDER #2 (AUTO FLOWER)
CRONIC RYDER (AUTO FLOWER)
MAXI (AUTO FLOWER)



FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
AUTO POUNDED (AUTO FLOWER)
AUTO POLAR EXPRESS (AUTO FLOWER)
AUTO PINEAPPLE PUNCH (AUTO FLOWER)
AUTO BERRY RYDER (AUTO FLOWER)
AUTO PURPLE CHEESE (AUTO FLOWER)

Serious Seeds

REGULAR PACKS OF TEN
AK 47
BUBBLE GUM
CHRONIC
KALI MIST
WHITE RUSSIAN
DOUBLE DUTCH
WALOCK
MOTIVATION
WHITE RUSSIAN (AUTO FLOWER)
FEMINIZED PACKS OF SIX
AK-47
CHRONIC
WHITE RUSSIAN
DOUBLE DUTCH
WALOCK
MOTIVATION

FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
CRIMEA BLUE
DR GRINSPORN
LSD
NIGHTSHADE
PINEAPPLE CHUNK
RED DRAGON
SWEET TOOTH
TANGERINE DREAM
VANILLA KUSH
VIOLATOR KUSH
LITTLE CHEESE (AUTO FLOWER)
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (AUTO FLOWER)
FLOWER POWER (AUTO FLOWER)
CRITICAL KUSH
SWEETH TOOTH (AUTO FLOWER)
LIBERTY HAZE
CRITICAL RAPIDO (AUTO FLOWER)
BLUE MAMMOTH (AUTO FLOWER)



FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
A-TRAIN
BURMESE KUSH
KUSHAGE
MK-ULTRA
S.A.G.E.
SAGE N SOUR
REGULAR PACKS OF TEN
DARKSTAR
MENDOCINO MADNESS
SHUNK XXX
THE HOG



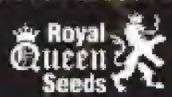
FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
PURPLE KUSH (AUTO FLOWER)
RED DWARF (AUTO FLOWER)
WHITE DWARF (AUTO FLOWER)



REGULAR PACKS OF TEN
ORIGINAL GRAND DADDY PURPLE
KENS KUSH



FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
CALIFORNIA HASH PLANT
CLOUD 9
CRITICAL JACK
CRITICAL
INDUSTRIAL PLANT
FRUIT (AUTO FLOWER)
HAZE (AUTO FLOWER)
ROADRUNNER 2 (AUTO FLOWER)



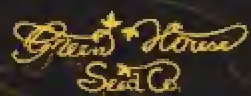
FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
CRITICAL
EASY BUD (AUTO FLOWER)
NORTHERN LIGHT
NORTHERN LIGHT (AUTO FLOWER)
POWER FLOWER
ROYAL AUTOMATIC (AUTO FLOWER)
ROYAL BLUEMATIC (AUTO FLOWER)
SHINNING SILVER HAZE



FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
A-TRAIN
BURMESE KUSH
KUSHAGE
MK-ULTRA
S.A.G.E.
SAGE N SOUR
REGULAR PACKS OF TEN
DARKSTAR
MENDOCINO MADNESS
SHUNK XXX
THE HOG



FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
CHEESE
BLUE CHEESE
SILVER CHEESE
CHEESY DICK
CRITICAL MASS
S.A.S. (super automatic sativa)



FEMINIZED PACKS OF FIVE
A.M.S.
ARJANS HAZE #1
ARJANS HAZE #2
ARJANS HAZE #3
ARJANS ULTRA HAZE #1
ARJANS ULTRA HAZE #2
ALASKA ICETHE CHURCH
ARJANS STRAWBERRY HAZE
BIG BANG
BIG BANG (AUTO FLOWER)
BUBBA KUSH
CHEESE
CHEM DOG
DAMN SOUR
DIAMOND GIRL
EXODUS CHEESE
EL NINO
GREEN - O - MATIC (AUTO FLOWER)
GREAT WHITE SHARK
HAWAIIAN SNOW
HIMALAYAN GOLD
JACK HERER
K-TRAIN
KING KUSH
KAJA KUSH
KALASHNIKOVA
LEMON SKUNK
LADYBURN 1974
MORY DICK
NEVILLES HAZE
NL HAZE
PUR KUSH
SUPER SILVER HAZE
SUPER LEMON HAZE
TRAINWRECK
THAI
SUPER BUD
SUPER CRITICAL
SUPER CRITICAL (AUTO FLOWER)
WHITE WIDOW
WHITE RHINO

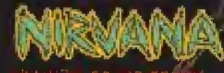
MIXED PACKS CALL FOR DETAILS
BLACK & WHITE MIX PACK
INDICA MIX PACKS
RASTA MIX PACK
SATIVA / INDICA MIX PACK
SATIVA MIX PACK



FEMINIZED PACKS OF SIX
60 DAY WONDER (AUTO FLOWER)
CATARACT KUSH
CONFIDENTIAL CHEESE
CHOCOPE
KANDY KUSH
KUSHBERRY
OG KUSH
RECON
SOUR CREAM
SILVER BUBBLE
SOUR DIESEL
SOUR KUSH
KOSHER KUSH
MATAIN KUSH
SILVER KUSH



FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
BCN DIESEL (AUTO FLOWER)
MATARO BLUE
MATARO BLUE (AUTO FLOWER)
WHITE DOMINA (AUTO FLOWER)
FLASH (AUTO FLOWER)
AFRODITE (AUTO FLOWER)



REGULAR PACKS OF TEN
AK-48
B52
BIG BUD
BLUE MYSTIC
BUBBLELICIOUS
CALIFORNIA ORANGE
EARLY BUD
EARLY MISTY
ICE
WHITE RHINO
WHITE WIDOW



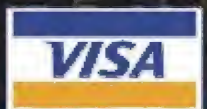
FEMINIZED PACK OF FIVE
COLOSSUS (AUTO FLOWER)
CYCLOPS (AUTO FLOWER)
GIGANTES (AUTO FLOWER)
GOLIATH (AUTO FLOWER)
HERCULES (AUTO FLOWER)
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ELECTRIFY YOUR PLANTS!

A revolutionary new device uses power to become a natural electric fertilizer for your plants. *By Sgt. Pepper*



Have you ever wondered why a plant can grow healthy and strong in temperatures above 85°F outdoors, while the health of the plants in your growroom will drastically decline at the same temps? It's because the plants in your growroom aren't connected to the Earth.

Simple and versatile, the Earth & Grow system allows you to "reconnect" multiple plants from just one outlet.



Plants in every stage of growth benefit from a "reconnection."

The controller plugs into an ordinary socket and uses no measurable electricity.



Electrical Earth

Plants have evolved in a state of nature, growing in the ground outdoors. For this reason, growing plants in artificial containers and not connecting them back to the Earth decreases their ability to grow and develop to their maximum potential.

During the past 200 years, the intimate relationship between electricity and life has been well documented. All organisms contain water and minerals, which together form an excellent conductor of electrons. Subtle electrical currents known as *telluric currents* pulsate perpetually at or near the surface of the earth and are easily transferred up, into and through the structures of all living things—as long as they're in direct contact with the Earth.

The Earth itself is an electrical generator, and all of its oceans and landmasses are conductive. The atmosphere above the Earth's surface also conducts electricity due to the presence of positive and negative ions in the air.

It is well established (though not so widely known) that the surface of the Earth possesses a limitless and continuously renewed supply of free electrons as a result of the planet's electrical current, itself the accumulated effect of thousands of daily thunderstorms. These storms feed a continuous current from the ground to the ionosphere. This electrical current spreads across the globe and returns to the Earth as a "fair-weather current" outside the thunderstorm areas. The whole process is referred to as the *global electrical circuit*, which in turn is responsible for the Earth's electrical field and maintains the unlimited supply of electrons everywhere on its surface.

The natural electromagnetic fields on the Earth affect the atmosphere and environment around our planet. All organisms have attuned their biology to the Earth's direct-current (DC) electricity and natural fields, known as the *Schumann resonances*.

THE VAPORIZER REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN

THE VAPEXHALE CLOUD® IS HERE



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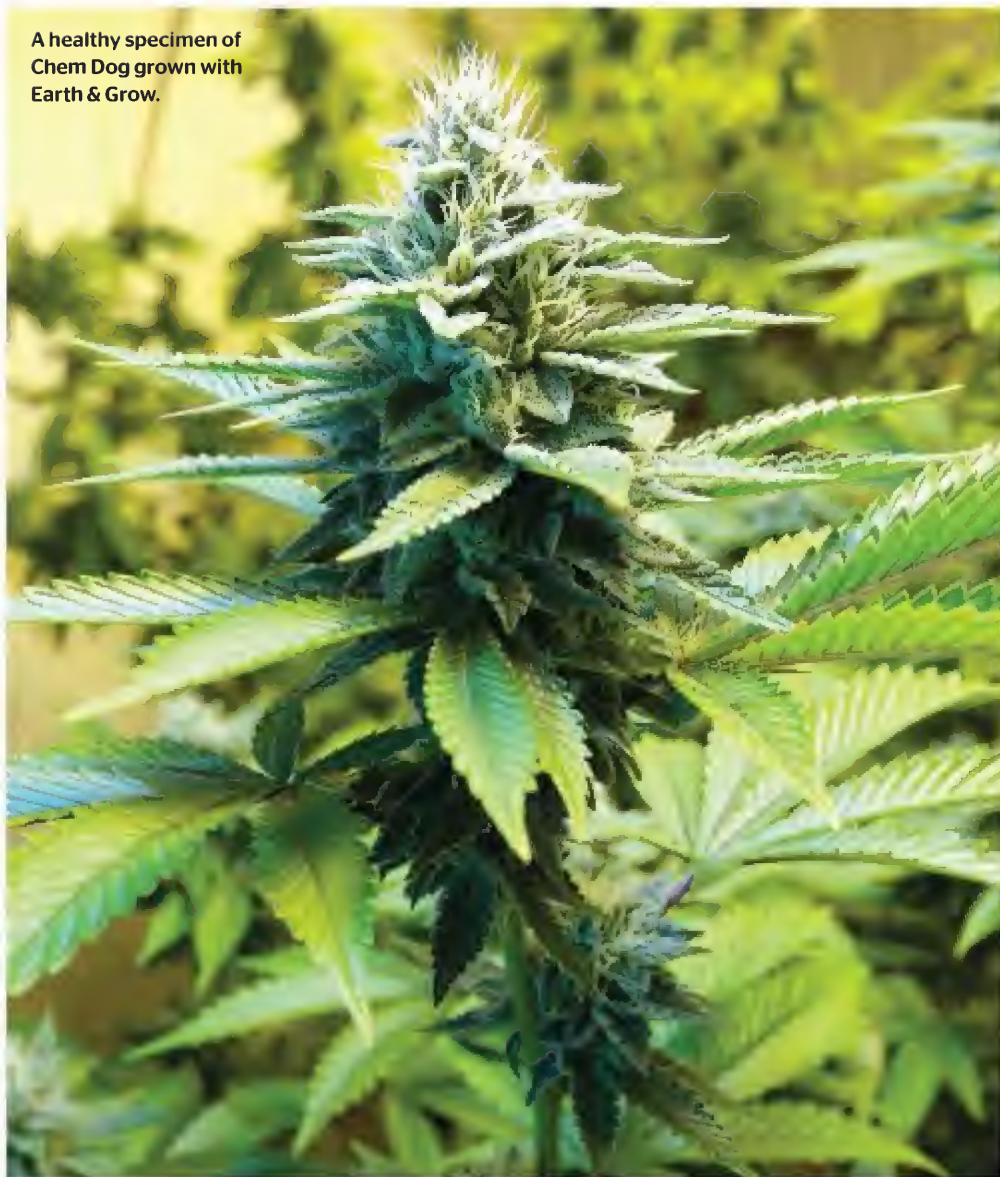


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Vape-X, Inc 2012

A healthy specimen of Chem Dog grown with Earth & Grow.



Alternating Current (AC), Free Radicals and Plant Health

Power distribution systems around the world radiate man-made, coherent alternating-current (AC) electricity at the rate of 50 to 60 hertz (Hz). This form of electricity is actually foreign to the biology of every living organism and is being researched as a factor in a variety of stress-related responses in humans (as well as other biological complications).

A wide range of electromagnetic radiation bombards us, with the sources including computers, mobile phones, radio and television broadcasts, WiFi, Bluetooth, high-tension power lines, domestic wiring and various other electrical appliances. Some of these radiation sources can produce large amounts of positive static charges and, in close proximity, can induce disruptive electrical potentials in our bodies as well as in plants. This positive static charge and resulting free-radical overdevelopment can unbalance the trillions of subtle electrical communications both across and between cell membranes, which play

a vital role in our overall health.

All organisms naturally produce free radicals to defend against bacteria and viruses. A free radical is an atom or molecule that contains an unpaired electron in its outer shell. This “extra” electron makes the atom or molecule highly reactive and unstable, requiring it to bond with other molecules. Under normal circumstances, free radicals bond to bacteria and viruses, destroying their vigor and accelerating their aging process. If high concentrations of free radicals remain unpaired and reactive, however, they will attack and damage healthy cells.

When potted plants are not connected to the earth, exposure to AC electromagnetic fields at 50 to 60 Hz increase the concentrations of free radicals. High concentrations of free radicals have been shown to damage an organism’s cells and DNA. Damaged DNA affects the function of cells when they divide and replicate. Harmful positive ionization from free radicals alters cell function, gene expression, growth, node development, yields and overall plant health.



Corsi and Doyle display the multimeter’s “zero” reading.

A REVOLUTION IN INDOOR GROWING

Stephen Doyle and Michael Corsi are the bright guys behind Earth & Grow.

During the winter of 2008, Stephen Doyle looked at his cannabis plants and wondered why they didn’t seem to be growing with the same vigor and life force as plants grown outside in the ground. It struck him that his plants were in plastic pots, raised over plastic catch trays and elevated over a tile floor. Essentially, they were “fish out of water.”

Doyle had graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in urban horticulture. The primary focus of his studies was organic fertilizer, compost tea, electromagnetism and cannabis. But during his senior year, he embarked on a research project titled “Electromagnetic Radiation and Its Effects on Plant-Insect Communication.” While investigating how insects can find a host plant from miles away, he became very familiar (and passionate) about antenna design, frequencies, vibration, and how physics links chemistry to biology. “Everything on Earth is an antenna,” Doyle says. “Resonance is the key to understanding the natural world.”

With proper resonance, he thought, it might be possible to produce healthy, heavy-yielding crops using fewer fertilizers and pesticides. But how could he channel the Earth’s energy into his plants’ containers?

Doyle asked his childhood friend, a gifted electrical engineer named Michael Corsi, for some help. Corsi had obtained his degree from the University of Rhode Island as well; understanding energy, resonance and the ways our environment interacts with us had long been the core of his interests. Starting with his work designing and installing car audio systems, then continuing through his college lab work and his career today as an electrical and control systems engineer, Corsi knew that one consideration was absolutely fundamental to ensure safety and proper functionality in his designs: grounding.

4G

08:20 am

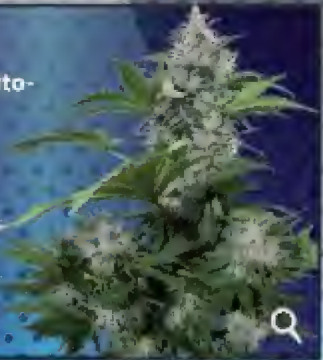
WHITE DWARF

A classic among auto-flowering strains.

100% Auto.

Harvest in 65 days.

5 Feminized Seeds
40€



BUDDHA PURPLE KUSH

NUEVA

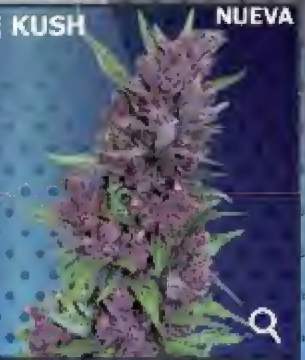
Taste and fastness.

100% Purple.

100% Auto.

Harvest in 65 days.

5 Feminized Seeds
35€



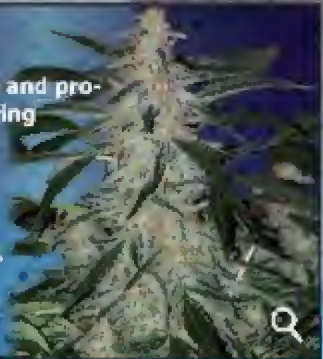
DEIMOS

The most powerful and productive autoflowering variety.

100% Auto.

Harvest in 70 days.

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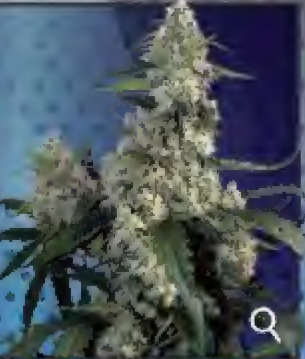


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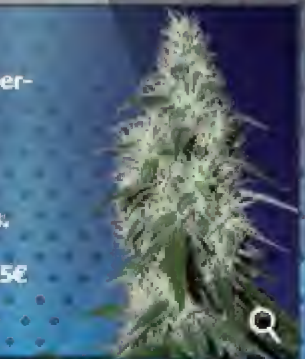
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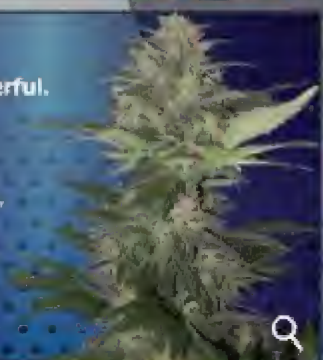
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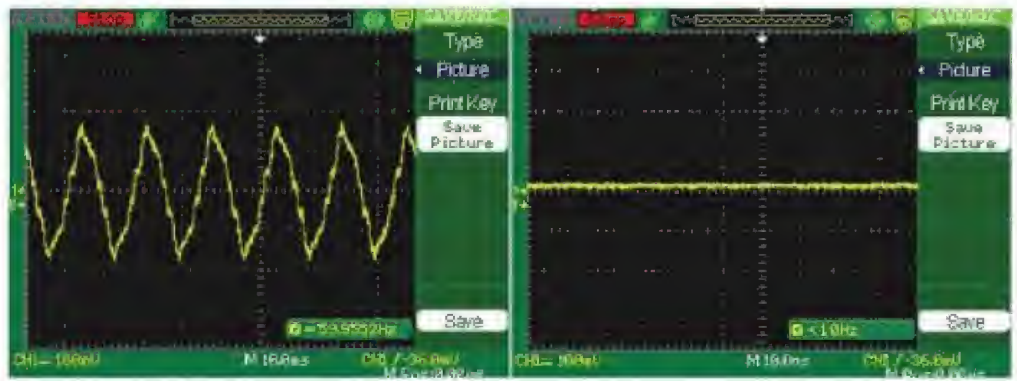
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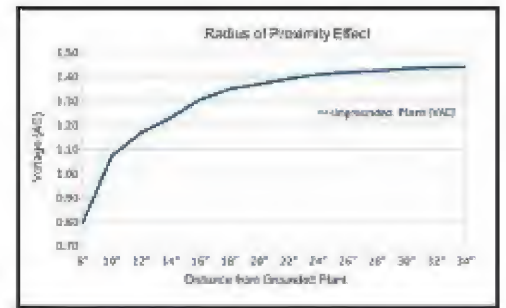
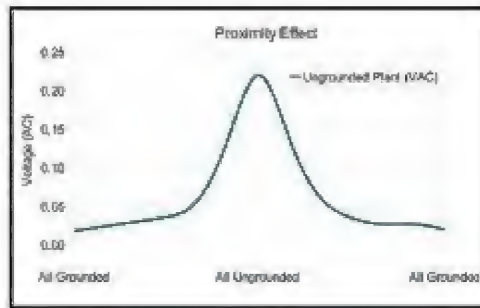
After four years of testing, Doyle and Corsi developed Earth & Grow, the world's first horticultural system that uses natural electrical currents to enhance plant growth. Growing plants with the Earth & Grow system allows plants to regulate themselves, as they have naturally evolved to do. The plants can mitigate positive static charges from AC sources in their environment (lights, fans, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, etc.) as well as take in DC potential from the Earth. "We were overwhelmed with the results and possibilities of our discovery," Corsi says.

Plants using Earth & Grow also have an influence on their neighbors. This is known as the proximity effect: A grounded plant will help "shield" its ungrounded neighbors from AC radiation up to an 18-inch radius. (The exact radius depends on the size and health of the grounded plant; see the results in Figures 1 and 2.) Although the grounded plant helps shield its neighbors from AC radiation, it does allow the DC potential to enter the pots from the Earth, which means the neighboring plants are receiving half the benefits as though they were grounded themselves.

Earth & Grow provides the perfect electrical stimulus needed to enhance gene expression, which means it can unlock a strain's genetic traits. This is most evident in the third generation of grounded plants. Think of it in



(Above): Using an oscilloscope, wavy lines show harmful AC radiation that your plants take in. The flat line shows Earth & Grow shielding plants from harmful radiation. (Below): When you reconnect one plant, any plant within a 3-foot radius benefits. The closer a disconnected plant is to the connected, the more it benefits, but never as much as the one directly connected.



terms of rebooting a computer: By discharging the accumulated stress, you help the plant's internal hardware (DNA) function to its maximum potential. The overall vitality of the

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University researchers and industry professionals have verified the benefits of Earth & Grow on many species of plants. The results will vary depending on species, but the system allows all potted plants to regulate biotic and abiotic stressors more efficiently, which is essential for maximizing growth, health and yield.

Earth & Grow's patent-pending technology works by inserting a soil probe into the plant's medium and connecting it to the controller. The system will not increase your electric bill and can be used year after year. Patients, caregivers and industry professionals have observed Earth & Grow's effects on cannabis and agree that the plants are stronger, healthier and more vibrant. Patients have reported a more effective healing medicine complemented by increases in flavor and storage life. Lab results also show consistently above-average levels of THC, CBD and CBN (though more testing is needed to determine exactly how much Earth & Grow increases these cannabinoids).

Keep in mind that less is more when using the Earth & Grow technology. Be careful not to overwater or overfertilize your plants. Earth & Grow stimulates their metabolism and allows them to maintain optimum nutrient levels and water balance. With practice and patience, you will achieve amazing results without



The final product: Fresh, healthy buds with increased potency. (Below): The plant on the left thrives with Earth & Grow.

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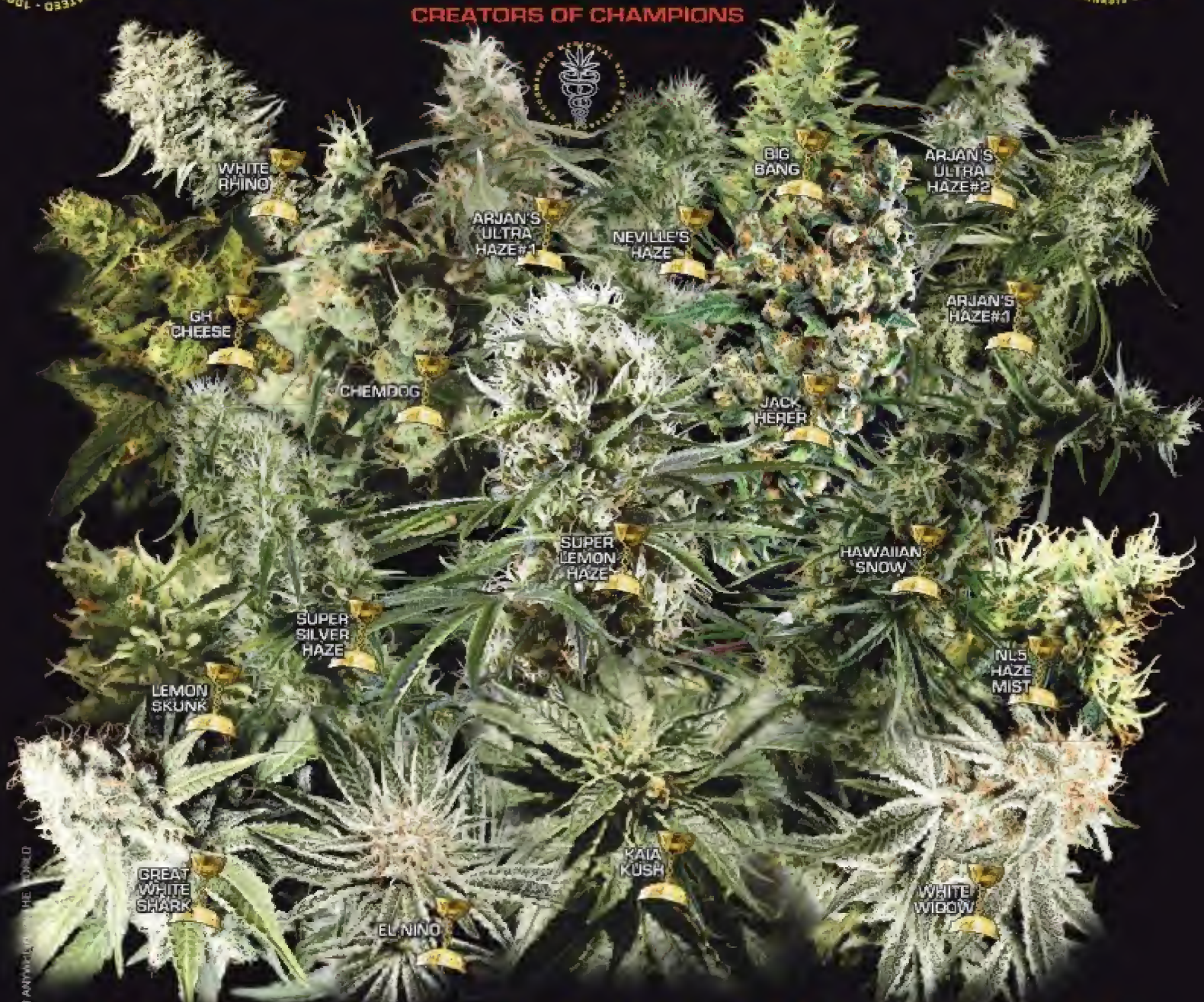


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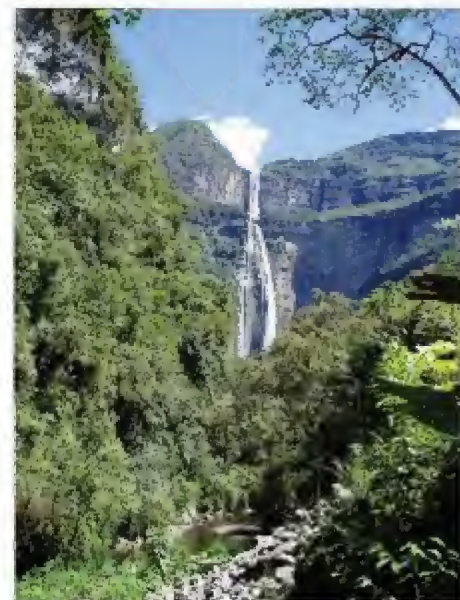
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Signs from the Vine

An intrepid wanderer gets his head broken open in Peru with the help of a couple of shamans and a three-ounce dose of ayahuasca. Can this ancient medicine provide the sort of healing that psychiatrists, New Age ceremonies and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings promise, but often fail to deliver? *By Bruce Northam*

I



Imagine doing everything you can to avoid clichés—and then happily becoming one yourself. An assignment to report on the “newly discovered”

third-highest waterfall in the world sent me to stunning northern Peru. From there, I drifted south to Cusco, the gateway to Machu Picchu, where out-of-body experience-shopping led me to question my own way of life. It generally takes the boys a bit longer to grow up than the girls—and some lads require a frying-pan whack on the head to tilt it toward the light. But first I had to navigate a jungle of New Age frauds.

Remarkable but touristy Cusco is the axis of trendy South American spirituality, where homegrown con artists posturing as healers routinely swindle flocks of gullible (often newly divorced) faith-seekers on vacation. After mingling with these bogus gurus, a number of American tourists tote home a few tattered drums, rattles and overripe mantras and materialize into self-proclaimed shamans. This enlightenment is often sanctified by a corny personal name change. (How ya doin', *Santosh*?) Partly aware but still skeptical, I tiptoed through that poser minefield and bumped into a life-changing, bad-habit-busting, all-night ceremony with a master shaman and his curative jungle juice, ayahuasca.

Ayahuasca is an ancient medicinal recipe that blends the extracted liquids from two or more Amazonian vines. Mixed and proffered by shamans, the concoction first quiets the user's ego and then inspires psychological breakthroughs via psychedelic visions that pave the way for emancipated thinking. It's a vision quest described by some as “five years of therapy in one night”; the vice-ending testimonials include people who have quit cigarettes, cocaine or heroin on the spot, and others who declared war on sexual abuse wounds or chronic depression immediately following their rituals.

Above: Peru's Gocta Falls.
Right: Ayahuasca is an infusion of two plants, the Ayahuasca vine (*Banisteriopsis caapi*) and the Chacruna bush (*Psychotria viridis*).



Modern chemists are amazed that this complex, DMT-based synapse stimulator was discovered centuries ago by tropical forest dwellers with no written language. Ayahuasca's benefits are gradually enlightening even some American mental health specialists (*hola*, Marin County), who recognize it as a potentially more sustainable—and possibly permanent—way to upload serotonin than through the use of unpredictable antidepressants. Back in the Beat era, William S. Burroughs's *Yage Letters* to Allen Ginsberg documented his own experiences with ayahuasca (a.k.a. yage) in Peru. In 2004, the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a New Mexico congregation could continue to use ayahuasca tea as part of its religious rituals. Contemporary celebrity advocates include Paul Simon, Tori Amos and Sting.

Since ayahuasca is considered remedial, *not* recreational, a reputable agent/facilitator of sorts is typically required to locate a shaman-led “vine of souls” ceremony. Authentic Amazonian shamans rarely speak English and may not even speak Spanish—and therein lies the first challenge. In addition, the sincerity, knowledge and price of these “agents” can vary widely. But as soon as my chosen facilitator introduced me to the ascended masters Don Antonio and his wife Rosita, a curing team in their sixties from Pucallpa, I knew I'd found my channel. Decades ago, Rosita's father—also a master—was reluctant to let his daughter pair off with the then 21 year old due to his excessive alcohol use. That spurred Don Antonio into sobriety and a study of shamanic ways.

Ayahuasca Visions

After meeting the healing duo again two days later in Cusco at the same bohemian guesthouse, we hiked a dark mountain road that wound uphill and outside the city to a secluded home surrounded by an eight-foot stone wall. Once inside, our group sat in a circle upon futons on the floor of a candlelit room. Don Antonio individually blessed each one of us—two Americans and six Peruvians—by spit-misting an aromatic substance over our heads. Then we each drank a three-ounce shot of ayahuasca, an auburn, woody-tasting fluid. Twenty minutes later, a dizzy euphoria encouraged us all to lie on our backs in the shadowy room. The dizziness soon subsided, and my first vision leisurely wandered in.

The dreamy series of visualizations was launched by a self-propelled



Ayahuasca cuts ready to be brewed.

Modern chemists are amazed that this complex, DMT-based synapse stimulator was discovered centuries ago by tropical forest dwellers with no written language.

flight—me clutching an airborne two-by-four-foot wing and flying through an infinite, illuminated cavern teeming with indented half-dome shelves. Each domed ledge in the hallowed emporium comfortably roosted groups of people important in my life. I visited dozens of ledges, exchanged greetings or memories with comrades, received reassurance from my parents and nods of approval from my two older brothers. When the breezy voyage landed me on a shelf with the ex-girlfriend, I said to her, “Sorry.” She tried to reply but couldn't find words. We both cried until I flew away. The tears were real, both in and out of the dream.

Somewhere in the cave, the beautiful singing began. A vital element in this ancient ritual are the *icaros*, the shaman's power songs, chants and whispers, which cultivate communication with the spirits of the natural world. The *icaros* help to flush out mental and physical illness and nurture pertinent visual displays in the minds of the ayahuasca-medicated. Trained by both a maestro shaman and the spirits themselves, Don Antonio and Rosita sustained and steered the entire five-hour meditative odyssey toward healing through their harmonizing *icaros*. This archetypal world music kaleidoscoped harmonies

from India, Africa, Southeast Asia, Peru and other places more indescribable.

One predictable outcome of an ayahuasca ceremony is the literal purging of bad energies (a.k.a. your personal demons). An exorcism in the form of literally dry-heaving out unhealthy spirits occurs at intervals after you process the unfortunate, unpleasant or repugnant things stuck in your past. In this shamanic forum, my first confrontation with my unsettled history concluded with the vomit-style purging of that broken relationship. Something stronger than me finally insisted I move on.

(I should also note that the dry-heaving—as opposed to vomiting—resulted from my following the suggested protocol of abstaining from sex, meat or alcohol for the week prior to the ceremony, and fasting for the final 24 hours. Those participants who'd had any food at all in their systems vomited it up soon after ingesting the ayahuasca, before it had taken effect. When the other group members puked, I sympathetically dry-heaved as well, because I'm an easy target for nausea: Sometimes the mere midday sighting of a Park Avenue poodle maneuvering to unload a crap on the street makes me heave. Pardon this neurotic detour from the story.)

The easy-breathing resumption of a second glide through my acquaintance-lined cavern was interrupted, in due course, by a series of visions associated with alcohol, the drug I'd been using—and occasionally abusing—in recent months while my fourth book remained unsold. The documentary-style 3-D shorts debuted with the image of a van-sized stone-block monument bearing a single word: “POWER.” I stood at its base, a beer can parked in the holster clipped to my belt, and used a chisel and hammer to splinter the monument. The ensuing revelation showed me with beer can in hand, standing above a collage of written statements declaring my life's goals. These affirmations of my dreams were arranged on the ground below an elevated sidewalk bridge that arched over skyscrapers, traffic and noisy pedestrian chaos. As I strolled over the bridge, I urinated upon my dreams. Curtain.

Next, the big screen flashed to my favorite East Broadway bar, consumed in roaring flames while a steady stream of patrons—also on fire—casually stumbled out the front door and toddled down the street, still aflame. The apparition's climax depicted me seated in a chair in the middle of a sallow, cell-like room

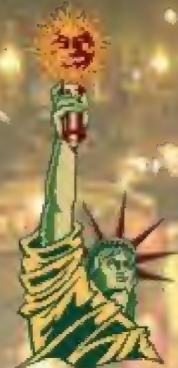


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illuminated by a bright bulb hanging on the end of a wire. I sat there with my head tilted back to smooth the process of swilling from a quart-sized beer bottle. Suddenly my exact double materialized, armed with a butcher knife, and began stabbing me repeatedly in the torso—while I kept drinking, failing to notice.

Not exactly subtle metaphors, especially when the visions were appearing on an IMAX-sized movie screen of the mind.

Then Don Antonio looked at me and said via translation: "Your best teacher is your last mistake."

translation: "Your best teacher is your last mistake." A minute later, I vowed to the group that I'd give up alcohol for the whole next year. After the ceremony, I hiked back into Cusco, lost in thought and curious about this new frontier.

I returned to the States a seemingly changed man, and I'm now nearing the end of that clearheaded year without any chest-beating, pining or month-counting. With so little drama involved, the rebalancing has been akin to taking on a new hobby merely by dropping an old one. I've had to get clever about entertaining myself, since the strolling-into-any-bar-and-playing-Bad-Company-on-the-jukebox option simply evaporated. Energized and far more patient, I now sleep seven hours a night instead of wanting ten—and wake up focused, putting pen to paper. My newfound patience inserts a few time zones of reflection into my conditioned impulse to flee dilemmas. I now settle dating arguments that once might have skyrocketed into war with a monk's practiced calm.

It seems clear to me that no well-meaning nag, shrink, friend or New Year's resolution could have led me to this happily altered state. Did a native folk medicine really unspool a random psychotropic movie reel in my brain, or were the imbedded secrets of my subconscious somehow unlocked? I may have had a subconscious agenda, but as far as I know, none of those images had been previously installed. Perhaps I just tripped upon a reason to change. Regardless, the mystical result wedged the first sturdy interleave of discipline into my life since my days as a collegiate-wrestling caveman.

Another lasting impression from this flushing out of the warring foes ratcheted into my psyche is a restored intent to "ruin" my life, so to speak, by leaving behind a meaningful legacy—not a bunch of temples or statues, but at least a few cool books. *Celestine Prophecy* cuteness aside, Peru inspired me. My heart signed a contract with my head, and I'm reclaiming my power.

And there's something else I'll never forget. While I was hugging my two shamans goodbye, Don Antonio whispered to me: "You've got to have *try*." 🌿

Bruce Northam is the author of Globetrotter Dogma. His ramble continues on american detour.com.

Hold on to your hat, amigo, it's going to be a bumpy ride.



The smell of alcohol soon became overwhelming and abruptly made me sit up and gag. I threw up (blanks) again, until a mood shift in Don Antonio's chanting and Rosita's singing coaxed me back into the flying buddy cave. A number of my unconscious psychological gargoyles—human and non-human enemies seated upon a few shelves in the cavern—were waving for attention, but I paid them no heed.

Needless to say, there's nothing predictable about the ayahuasca experience except for the lifeguard role of a good shaman. Sadly, their ancient insights exist on borrowed time in the modern world. When a bona fide shaman dies, a library burns.

Back to the Material World

As the sun rose, the members of my group simultaneously landed back on Earth and discussed their visions with Don Antonio and Rosita via the facilitator (the guy who profited most from the money changing hands before the ceremony.) The two rounds of rib-cracking dry heaves made me feel as though I'd pulled muscles in my torso, but otherwise I felt fine. The freestyle group discussion, in which everyone shared their personal journey, reminded me of a feel 'n' heal workshop on some corporate weekend. After describing my visions, I watched as Don Antonio and Rosita had a brief exchange in soft voices. Then Don Antonio looked at me and said via



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The Road to Redem

A few years back, LED grow lamps were considered laughable. But we all knew they'd come around sooner or later ... didn't we?

Story & photos
by Nico Escondido



kay, okay. I know it, you know it, we all know it, so let's just say it: Three or four years ago—heck, even 12 months ago—I would've told you not to waste your time or money on any grow lamp using light-emitting diodes (LEDs). The problem with this situation is two-fold. First, I blame the lag in technology: When prototypes first come out showcasing a new technological

advance, they will, inevitably, not live up to the hype. This is just how business works: The first model is never the best, or even close to the full potential that a particular product will eventually achieve. But the first model of any new gear can help a company eventually improve and develop a better product.

The second problem is that savvy investigative journalists (ahem) don't always remember to revisit the technology they wrote off as "not there yet" a year or two earlier. I've done this now with a couple of new technologies, always forgetting that in a few years' time, that technology just might catch up with itself and deliver a product that is actually viable and useful in the garden. (I plead "occupational hazard" as a defense for my short memory ...)

So does this mean we're about to tell you that LED products are now 100 percent excellent, the new "end-all and be-all"? Does it mean that they have—or soon will—outrun traditional high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting? Does it mean LEDs will overtake the oncoming plasma-lamp revolution, the lamps that are the so-called "future of indoor grow lighting"?

Well, let's not get too ahead of ourselves just yet. (And I mean that more about plasma lamps than LEDs!) But, for sure, LEDs have made huge strides in the past year or so and now warrant not only a place in our growrooms, but even some space here in *High Times*. Yes, I know, I know: It's about time!

Broader light spectrum and increased power have brought LED lamps closer than ever before to HID results.

ption





LEDs used as complimentary (not supplementary) light can make for much more productive hybrid gardens.

The Fuss

The questions about LEDs and their pros and cons come into the HT cultivation department by the dozens on a daily basis. So why all the fuss? Why are growers so keen on using them? Well, here's the truth: Growers want to use LED lamps because they give off a lot less heat indoors and are more energy-efficient (and thus economical) than the alternatives. Also, LED companies advertise like crazy—in our very own magazine, as a matter of fact—and many readers have become inundated with LED info, oftentimes mistaking simple ad placement as a sign of endorsement.

Then you have guys like me, on the other hand, who don't write much about LEDs because, as my mother taught me years ago, if you don't have anything nice to say, say nothing at all. And just like that, you have the enigma surrounding the LED saga.

So where does this leave us? Is the lack of investigative coverage due to the fact that most cultivation reporters don't fully understand the technology (and related plant physiology) involved with LEDs? Maybe. But the truth is, until now the technology hasn't been right for horticultural use—and, more specifically, for a plant's photosynthetic system. Here's why ...

4 Concerns About Horticultural LEDs

Here's where we depart from the first-person narration. It's all science from here on in, so pay attention, because these four concerns are the basis of all LED issues, and how they're addressed will determine the success (or failure) of the horticultural LED-lamp industry for years to come.

As with all indoor lighting, the primary question is the quality of the light being provided to our plants. So let's start at the very beginning: with our sun.

We already know that the goal of all indoor grow lighting is to mimic as closely as possible the Sun's natural light. Or, at least, that should be the goal. Some growers forget this or simply don't care, so long as the end results are what they want. That's one way to go—but in this age of medical marijuana and health consciousness, it's smarter to try to keep your plants as close to their natural state as possible—even indoors—in order to maximize their genetic potential. With that in mind, let's examine what we're really looking for in good indoor horticultural lighting.

1. Light Intensity

Nothing we have indoors comes close to matching the power of sunlight. This is one reason we try to keep our lamps as close to the garden canopy as possible. But doing so requires close monitoring of the temperature within the garden and preventing heat pockets from building up around the plants—a big advantage for LEDs, which produce less heat than their HID counterparts. However, LED lamps are composed of small bulbs (called diodes) from which the light emanates. These diodes are severely lacking in power when compared to stronger HID bulbs, which is why they're grouped together in large arrays on LED panel boards. Still, at one or two watts per diode (standard wattage for many of the first LED products), a lamp would require 500 or more diodes to create the same light intensity as one 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp.

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2. Light Spectrum

This is arguably the most important aspect of good horticultural lighting and the real crux of the matter when it comes to LED lamps—especially the earlier models. The Sun is full-spectrum, whereas HID bulbs are not (despite some dubious claims). But LEDs, most notably the alpha and beta versions, weren't even close, with many boasting only two-tone wavelengths (reds and blues). LED lamps are improving in this area, but they're still lacking—though the gap is closing with HID bulbs. Even more to the point, new advances in diode technology have allowed for a more diverse set of wavelengths to be produced by diode manufacturers, including true-white diode “chips” that come rated with color temperatures that can range between 2,000 and 6,000 degrees Kelvin. (For reference, sunlight is approximately 5,500°K.)

3. Light Distribution/Light Coverage

You may have noticed that today's LED lamps are getting bigger compared to the models from a few years back. One of the reasons for this is to get better garden coverage out of each unit. LEDs are monodirectional, with the light being emitted from each diode in one direction only. Compared to HID bulbs that give off light from 360 degrees, LEDs are at a disadvantage, as traditional reflectors serve no purpose for a diode that emits light straight down.

4. Plasma Light vs. Electroluminescence

The least of the four concerns, this issue is not applicable to any lighting equipment (yet) other than LEDs. That's because LEDs are the only type of lighting in the cultivation market that do not produce plasma light, instead producing electroluminescence. Sunlight is true plasma light, and so are HID bulbs as well as fluorescent lamps. This, unfortunately, is an issue that cannot change for LEDs, but the verdict is still out on whether or not this ultimately has a negative effect on a plant's potential. Still, one thing is certain: The difference ensures that there will always be a wide gap between LEDs and the goal of getting as close to nature as possible with an indoor garden.

Overcoming the Stigma

So how do some of today's better LED lamps compare to earlier models—and, more importantly (and more specifically), how do these newer LED models answer the aforementioned concerns?



This all-LED growroom keeps lamps within 12" of the garden canopy with no side effects from heat.



Another all-LED commercial grow that cuts down on power draw and heat.



Dense flowers at the bottom of the garden are a product of more light energy from heavy red LED wavelength.

To combat light intensity issues, LED companies are now utilizing more powerful LED chips that can handle higher wattages. The physical design of these chips is significantly different from the traditional tiny diodes that growers are accustomed to seeing (though the chip is still technically referred to as a “diode”), with the chips becoming flat and square. Manufacturers try to get as many of these chips onto the light board as possible to increase the lamp's intensity per square inch. Of course, this comes with drawbacks that need to be mitigated, such as increasing the thermal output of the lamp overall. This can be the difference in a manufacturer choosing to run a 2-watt diode over a 3-watt diode. When the extra power needed to drive those larger wattages is pushed through the lamp, excess heat is created, so the goal becomes spreading those diodes out—but without compromising the optimal spectral mix of the various color frequencies. It's a delicate balance to achieve this and also avoid creating “hot spots” on the garden canopy.

Not only is the light intensity powerful enough for canopy penetration, but the heavy representation of red wavelengths in the lamp give gardens a huge influx of photons—the light energy that plants harvest for use in photosynthesis. Photons are most prevalent in the red frequencies. This provides a huge boost in light energy that plants use in flower and trichome development, resulting in both larger and higher quality yields.

In terms of the actual spectrum that LED lamps can produce, the advent of true-white diodes have gone a long way toward helping promote broader spectrums. Initially, the only affordable diodes coming out of LED factories in Asia were of the red and blue variety. But with LED lighting becoming more and more prevalent not just in horticulture but for stage lighting, home use and televisions, the cost of other color diodes has come down.

Still, do not be fooled: Good LED lamps remain fairly expensive, with many of the best units ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,500. Also, the light distribution in LED lamps is still a concern for many manufacturers. A number of ideas have been put into testing—everything from angling the diodes on the light boards, to mounting specialized reflectors along the edges, to spinning the LEDs on rotating arms. Perhaps the best method of expanding LED coverage is to utilize lenses that refract the light into a wider swath. These lenses are made

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from customized glass and resins that create the least disturbance to the light waves. Even so, solutions to this problem continue to be researched. As it stands right now, the best LED lamps can cover approximately a 4' x 4' area of garden.

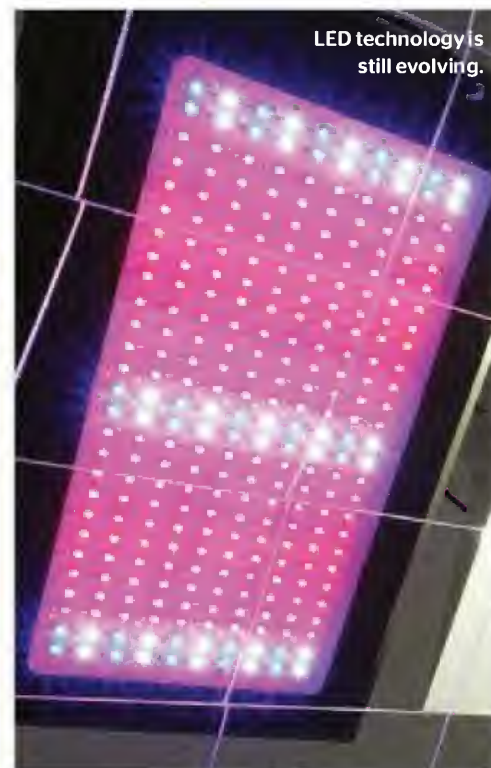
Photons are the actual particles of energy that plants harvest from light and use in photosynthesis.

How LEDs Work

Inside each LED, there exist layers of semiconductors sandwiched between metal electrodes (conductors that make contact with the nonmetallic circuit parts). When voltage is applied between the electrodes, negatively charged electrons are able to recombine with positively charged electron "holes" within the diode. This causes a release of energy in the form of photons, which produces light.

The early problem with LEDs was that when electrical current was increased in the diodes, the vaunted efficiency rates of LEDs plummeted. This problem was especially prevalent in diodes of a certain color, such as the blue and green wavelengths. The problem occurs because of a semiconductor layer in the middle of the diode that is typically made from gallium nitride. This layer generates a second electrical field of its own when the current is increased in the diode, forcing the positive and negative ions apart rather than together to create light.

Recent developments in LED technology have circumvented this problem using diodes that are flat and chip-like in design. These chip diodes can generally handle higher wattages and thus deliver more intense light. The problem with these newer chip diodes is their higher thermal output, thus impacting one of the main advantages that LEDs have over standard HID bulbs. Driving more current through light boards naturally produces more heat, and so it becomes a design game for LED companies to figure out the best way to get as many diodes on the board, and with as much power running to them as possible, while still maintaining the same energy-efficiency that LEDs have become known for.



Notes on Stealth Grow LED

It's no coincidence that many of the photos featured in this article show lamps manufactured by the Stealth Grow LED company. But before any conspiracy theories start to swirl, let me state the simple reason for this: Stealth Grow is one LED company that not only has turned the corner on the technology, but is also honest and intelligent about its products and how they should be used.

A basic philosophy of good LED manufacturers centers not just on what their lamps can do, but how their light fits into an entire garden system as well as interacts with the plant's physiology. This means incorporating fundamental principles of plant science, such as photosynthetic processes and physical development throughout each phase of growth. When it comes to LEDs specifically, the focus must be on light strength, thermal output and spectrum quality.

Light strength refers not so much to actual intensity—which we measure in lux or lumens—but to photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and photosynthetic photon-flux density (PPFD). Photons are the actual particles of energy that plants harvest from light and use as a catalyst in photosynthesis. Photons have the highest concentration in the red wavelengths of the spectrum. As a result, many LED lamps come very heavy in the reds.

However, plant biologists know that plants need a full spectrum—as provided in nature by the Sun—to ensure proper growth and development. Therefore, more and more LED companies are trying to

incorporate more than just the standard reds and blues that have been so prevalent in LED lamps for so many years.

Stealth Grow has not only fortified the red wavelengths in its latest model (SG 602) with red (620-630nm) and hyper-red (660nm)—which carries with it a PPFD of 631 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$ (for comparison, at its strongest the Sun's PPFD is 2,000 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$)—but has also incorporated 30 blue and 30 white chips to broaden the overall spectrum and get plants more of the light "vitamins" they need. Without full spectrum, plants can grow awkwardly and stretch; they'll also feel stressed, as the biological functions during photosynthesis do not occur normally, leading to a drop-off in food production. In many instances, a stressed plant actually creates more resin as a mechanism for attracting pollen and ensuring its lifeline. Many growers mistakenly construe this as a benefit of the lamp, when in reality the plant's potential is not being maximized and the plant is actually producing less food during photosynthesis, which in turn leads to decreased yields.

You will notice that in many of the photographs throughout this article, Stealth Grow LED lamps are used in conjunction

with HPS lamps. The alternating HPS lamps help provide a more complete spectrum over the garden in concert with the LED lamps, which provide not only an enhanced spectrum but also increased light energy for heavier yields. The commercial grows shown in these photos reported an increase in yields exceeding 20 percent once the Stealth Grow LED lamps were incorporated in their setups. When you factor in this increase in yields—and the fact that these lamps have a lifespan of 50,000 to 100,000 hours (that's up to 12 years)—it's clear that these lamps can repay their cost very quickly.

For the vegetative phase of cultivation, LED lamps have traditionally been a non-factor, but that too is starting to change. Using only blue and white chips, LED companies can match the benefits of metal halide (MH) bulbs in the vegetation phase/mother-plant room or in the clone nursery. The Stealth Grow Veg light is intended as a replacement for a 1,000-watt MH, but it draws only 560 watts (six amps on a 110v current), keeping its efficiency levels where you'd expect for an LED, and without the added heat that an HID bulb will produce. ✨

Hard Facts on LED Growing

The following has been verified by the High Times cultivation department:

An NYC Diesel bud grown under 100% LED lamps (in this case, the Stealth Grow 1250 LED) tested at 19% THC at the Werc Shop lab in Pasadena, CA.

With little to no light penetration through the garden canopy in an HPS/LED mixed garden, dense, fully formed flowers were growing so low on the plants that some buds literally sat directly atop the soil medium.

With no light penetration reaching the growroom floor, the formation of lower buds is attributed to the abundance of added light energy (photons) from the heavy red spectrum of the LED lamps.

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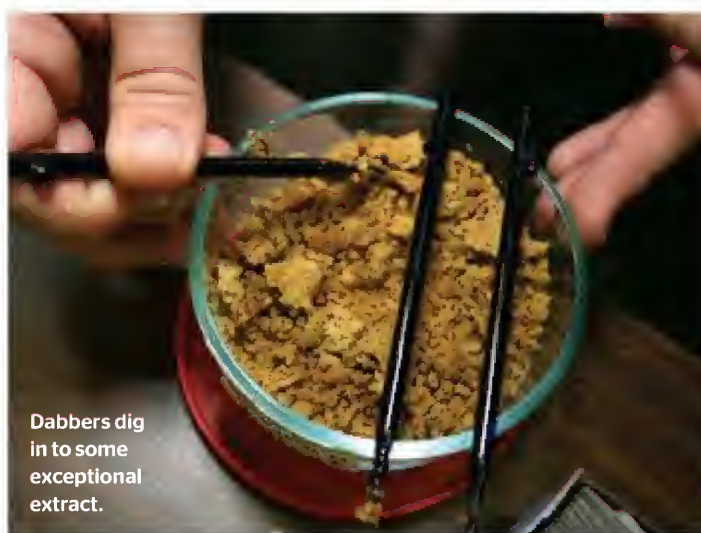


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To Dab or Not to Dab?

Exploring the pros, cons and possible dangers of butane hash oil. By Bobby Black

With each passing month, the popularity—and controversy—of butane hash oil (BHO) and the phenomenon surrounding it (known as “dabbing”) continues to grow in the cannabis community. Some hail it as a miracle medicine, a quantum leap forward in stoner evolution. Others criticize it, pointing to the potential dangers involved in both making and ingesting it, as well as possible negative effects on the public’s increasingly favorable attitude toward marijuana. Here at *High Times*, it’s our duty to cover this issue as honestly and responsibly as we can—addressing any genuine concerns and dispelling unwarranted fears. To that end, we consulted some of the industry’s most knowledgeable experts on the subject of cannabis extracts and their effect on the human body. Here’s what they had to say.



Dabbers dig in to some exceptional extract.

SOLVENT VS. NONSOLVENT EXTRACTION

The first question to be addressed is: What’s the difference between solvent extracts and traditional hash? Well, aside from appearance, the biggest difference is the process involved in making them. While traditional hash is made using sieves (wet or dry) to separate the trichomes from the plant, extract hash is

made by “blasting” a chemical solvent (i.e., butane, CO₂) through the plant matter, then “purging” the solvent away. But these solvents don’t just extract the trichomes—they also pull substances from other parts of the plant.

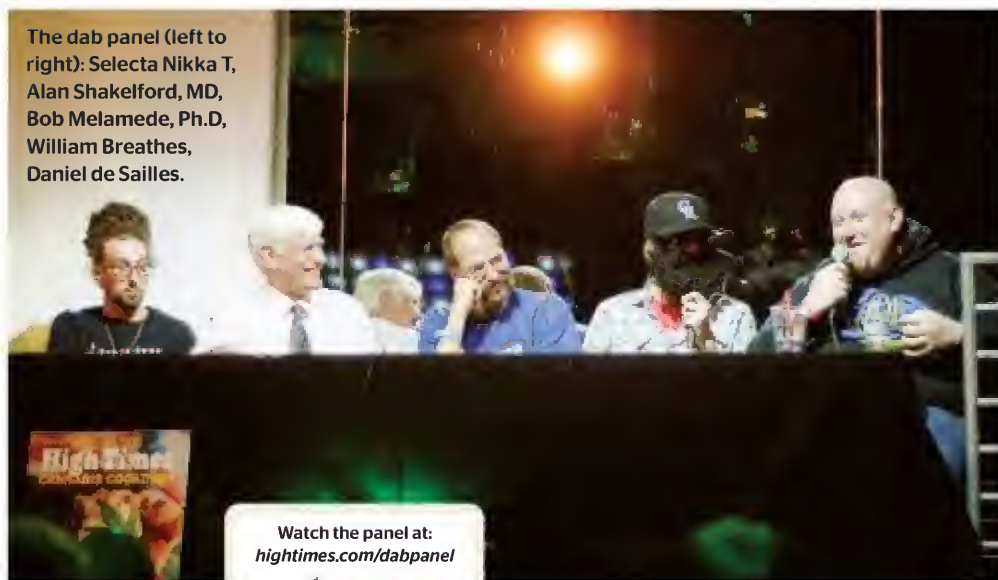
“You’re getting a lot of extra goodies that come out in those solvent extracts,” observes Bob Melamede, Ph.D. An associate professor of biology at the University of Colorado and the president/CEO of Cannabis Science Inc., Dr. Melamede is one of the world’s few experts

on the human endocannabinoid system. “Aside from the oils, there are all sorts of compounds that come out that probably have beneficial value,” he says. “We’ve got indications that there are differences in the effects, pain relief properties and potentially other important phenomena. We don’t really know at this point ... all we know is that this plant is quite the magical chemistry set.”

***The popularity
and controversy
of “dabbing”
continues to grow.***

A Hitman torch tube, all
fired up and ready to dab
with some Blue Halo Wax
from Phillips RX.





The dab panel (left to right): Selecta Nikka T, Alan Shackelford, MD, Bob Melamede, Ph.D., William Breathes, Daniel de Sailles.

It's also widely believed that BHO boasts a higher concentration of THC and is therefore much stronger than traditional hashish. But is this really true? As the cannabis critic for Denver's *Westword* alt-newspaper, William Breathes is paid to sample and review a wide array of cannabis products—and according to his experience, it is stronger. “When you look at the percentage of cannabinoids per weight, it seems you're pulling out more THC with butane than with ice water,” he says.

But there are those who disagree—such as Selecta Nikka T, owner and operator of Colorado's Essential Extracts. “It's such a new phenomenon that we really don't have enough data to show that BHO is getting higher test results than water extraction of the same strain, or if there are any dangers to it,” he asserts. “I prefer the solventless method, because we can retain terpenes a lot better than most solvents, and I don't have to worry about anything being left over in my product.”

Another of Denver's extraction experts is Daniel “Big D” de Sailles, a partner at Top Shelf Extracts, who isn't quite as skeptical. “I'm a 100 percent proponent of BHO, because I've seen it make people's pain just evaporate,” he states. “As medicine, it helps with both harm reduction—it practically cures withdrawal symptoms in people who are alcoholics or addicted to speed or pharmaceuticals—and pain management. It works every single time, and it's easier to regulate your dosage. You take a fraction of a percent of a gram, and you're fully medicated and exactly where you want to be.”

Watch the panel at:
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“There isn't any evidence that inhaling residual hydrocarbons like butane are dangerous—at least in small amounts.”

So which is better, butane or solventless? Until more analysis is done comparing the chemical composition of the plant material to the solvent extracts, we won't know the real differences. But according to Amarimed of Colorado's Alan Shackelford, MD, it's not really a matter of “better” or “worse”—just what suits a patient's individual needs and preferences.

“There isn't necessarily one method that's superior to another,” he explains. “Concentrates can be provided in a variety of ways ... different options for different conditions that vary from person to person, as it should be.”

BUTANE AND THE BODY

One of the biggest concerns regarding BHO is that inhaling butane might be unhealthy.

de Sailles isn't convinced. “Butane is used in so many things we buy,” he points out, “like hairspray, cooking spray, e-cigarettes, flavor extracts ... so it's already around.” Even so, the fact that butane is present in a number of consumer products doesn't necessarily mean that it's safe.

Fortunately, both Dr. Melamede and Dr. Shackelford seem to agree that it is. “I looked through the National Library of Medicine database on this, and there

isn't any evidence that inhaling residual hydrocarbons like butane are dangerous—at least in small amounts,” says Dr. Melamede. “It's an irritant, but that's about it.”

But if we eliminate butane as a risk, are there other dangers involved in using BHO? “There's very good evidence that smoking marijuana doesn't harm the lungs, and I'm quite sure that smoking concentrates doesn't either,” says Dr. Shackelford. “The only real negative would be overdosing, which might make you uncomfortable for a while, maybe a little anxious or paranoid ... but as far as a long-lasting physiological danger? I don't think so.”

“I've seen people consistently do 25 half-gram hits and not have any adverse side effects,” de Sailles argues. “BHO has been around since the year 2000, so people have been dabbing for a decade now and there haven't been any real problems reported yet.”

But, in fact, we know of at least one serious problem that has been reported: Last year, a young woman named Jessi was “blowing nails” of BHO when her throat suddenly swelled up, making it difficult to breathe. She was rushed to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with chemical epiglottitis, a condition in which the epiglott—the flap of skin that separates the esophagus from your trachea—becomes inflamed by an irritant (i.e. infection, heat, chemicals) and blocks off the windpipe. Luckily, Jessi was treated in time; if she hadn't been, the condition could have been fatal. So if this is a possible consequence of dabbing—even one experienced by only a tiny percentage of users—people need to be aware of it. But what actually caused this reaction?

“I very much doubt it was the butane or concentrate at all, but some other factor,” Dr. Shackelford says. “The volatile evaporative temperature of butane is extremely low—so if you're heating it up, that butane is pretty much gone; any residual wouldn't be a problem. There are a lot of different things it could've been ... maybe it was just the temperature. You can actually get epiglottitis from hot coffee if you swallow it incorrectly.”

“I'd say the least likely of all was that it had anything to do with the butane,” Dr. Melamede concurs. “It could've been contaminants in the product ... she might've had an allergy to something else that was concentrated.”



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Blasting Flowers

It's widely agreed that the most dangerous aspect of BHO is making it—or, rather, not making it properly. There have been numerous reports of people causing large explosions while attempting butane extractions without taking the necessary precautions.

"These dangers are real," says Selecta Nikka T. "People are blowing up their homes. So if we're going to continue doing this—which I'm sure we are—we need to take into account all the safety precautions needed for this process."

Let's be clear about this: *High Times* strongly discourages anyone who has not been professionally trained from making BHO on their own. However, we realize that some people out there *are* going to do it—and if so, we want them to recognize that they need to do it responsibly.

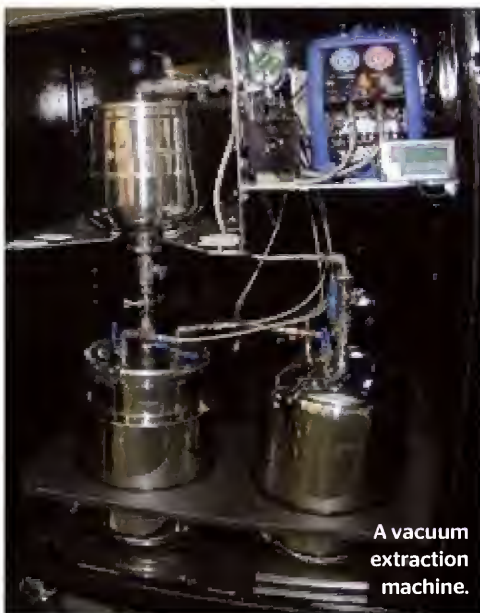
"There are two ways to go about using butane to extract," explains de Sailles. "There's an open system, where you take a tube, you fill it with trim, you stick in a can of butane in one side and then filter it through coffee filters into a pan, where you purge it. That's the open system, and that's what people are doing inside and blowing themselves up. The other way—a closed system—is when you get a machine that actually recycles the butane. That's a lot safer, but you should still be in a well-ventilated area."

Being outdoors is key, because the butane vapor that evaporates is highly flammable and can be ignited even by something as seemingly harmless as static electricity. Making BHO indoors is like *asking* to be blown up. (Think about it—they don't call it "blasting" for nothing.)

"It happens," Breathes admits. "I'm not going to argue that it doesn't blow up and that people aren't stupid; there are plenty of videos on the Internet to prove that. If you want to do it right, the info is out there ... all we can do is advocate responsibility."

"You can't legislate intelligence or responsibility," Dr. Shackelford agrees. "That's the problem: We have to protect ourselves from ourselves—but we can't." Then he raises another caveat: the composition of the tube that holds the weed.

"It's important to use stainless steel, not PVC piping," he stresses. "Plastic is always a potential problem. Butane extracts all kinds of stuff, and you don't want polyvinyl chloride in your concentrate." Even when doing water or bubble-hash extractions, he adds, it's important to use food-grade plastics: "If you're just using some orange bucket you bought



A vacuum extraction machine.

Making BHO indoors is like asking to be blown up. (Think about it—they don't call it "blasting" for nothing.)

at Home Depot, you're likely to extract unwanted chemicals such as hardeners from the plastic. If it's an industrial product and not food-grade, just assume that there's going to be dangerous stuff in it."

Gaseous Anomalies

The most common impurities usually arise from "dirty" butane. The fuel sold for use in lighters is only about 80 percent butane and contains chemicals that smell (such as thiols—also known as mercaptans—or sulfur dioxide), which are added so that leaks can be detected. Since these chemicals will taint the taste and purity of your extract and can be harmful if ingested, this kind of butane should *never* be used. Only butane that's quadruple-refined or better is suitable for use—and even then, you can't always be sure what you're getting, since there's no across-the-board standards for purity.

"There are all these companies coming out of Korea now and other places that are saying [their butane is] 'five times refined,' 'three times refined'—but who really knows what type of refinery process they're using?" warns Nikka T. "Their 'five times refined' may not be as clean as, say, Colibri's 'three times refined.'"

So how can BHO makers know which products are best to use? According to de Sailles, that testing has already been done. "The knowledge base that's online

right now is extensive," he says. "People have tested every single one, and so far Vector and Colibri are the two choice brands for making BHO. I personally use Vector 5x, but I'm in the process of switching over to pure n-butane."

Pure n-butane (C₄H₁₀) is medical or laboratory-grade butane, which is available at 99.9 percent purity. It evaporates completely at a low temperature (-0.5°C), so the chances of residue are slim, and such residue would be pretty much tasteless and harmless. But there's a downside: Pure n-butane is sold only in large quantities (five to 485-lb. cylinders) by gas-supply companies and is fairly expensive. Considering that you only need around eight ounces of butane for each ounce of cannabis, this isn't an option most would-be blasters would opt for.

The Purge

After the extraction, your concentrate must be purged of whatever solvent remains in it. In an open system, this can be tricky—and dangerous.

"I make sure to blast into a pan that's already floating in fairly hot water, where you put your finger in and have to pull it out after a second," says de Sailles. "You'll see the butane bubble away and evaporate, and what's left over are big, thick bubbles, which you then have to pop. It'll usually take about two or three water changes until there's not enough butane left in it to do anything and you can actually take it inside."

"How fast you get that butane out of your concentrate matters a lot," he adds. "One of the problems with closed systems is that it takes up to an hour to recover the butane—so that whole time, your extract is soaking in solvent. If you leave extracts soaking too long, it can cause the cell membranes to rupture. So I try to get it out as quick as possible."

In a closed system, the extractor machine will "vacuum-purge" the solvent from the concentrate. In theory, this method is safer and more reliable, but in reality, that's not always so.

"A lot of people playing around with vacuum-purging don't know what they're getting into," says Selecta Nikka T. "People are getting vacuums and pumps and chambers that aren't completely sealing, or they're not getting strong enough of a vacuum. I've even seen some material still crackle after just having water stuck in it from the vacuum chamber."

"If it makes a crackling sound when you heat it, you know for sure it's dirty," de Sailles cautions. "The heat is burning



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the solvent, so it makes a sizzling sound like water in a hot skillet. If it's sizzling, then there's a problem with the technique of the person who's making it. If they couldn't keep the water out of it, I wouldn't trust their extraction skills."

Purity Of Product

Nearly everyone agrees that the only serious health risk posed by smoking BHO is the possibility of ingesting harmful contaminants that may have been infused into the concentrate during the extraction process.

"The biggest concern is the quality of the marijuana—who's been growing it and what they used," says Dr. Melamede. "If you have contaminants (i.e., pesticides, herbicides, fungi) on your plant, that's going to come off into the extract. Then, when you evaporate the solvent, you'll actually be concentrating those things—and *that's* the real danger. Pesticides are typically extremely nasty in how they can affect your nervous and immune systems, so you definitely don't want to be consuming that."

As if incompetent blasters weren't enough, one must also be wary of



Two blasting trays filled with BHO.

criminals out to make a quick buck selling bogus product. "You have a whole spectrum of unscrupulous people out there who are going to do whatever to try to make money," says Dr. Melamede. "I personally wouldn't use any cannabis product if I didn't know who produced it and/or hadn't had it properly analyzed."

One perfect example: a video that Breathes posted on his blog in which he drops a chunk of "shatter" (brittle BHO) onto a hot nail, only to have it flame up high enough to scorch his face if he'd actually tried to inhale it. Later that week, Breathes had the sample tested and was shocked to learn that it

contained only 10 percent cannabinoids (compared with 50 to 75 percent in most concentrates). What the other 90 percent was—and who was responsible for making this dangerous pseudo-hash—has yet to be determined.

Metal Fume Fever

Another concern that's recently come up is whether or not the metal nails used for dabbing might—under heat and over time—oxidize or

flake, forcing the user to inhale toxic dust or fumes. Such a situation might cause a condition called "metal fume fever," whose symptoms include chills, nausea, headaches, fever and muscle pain. But according to our experts, if the nail is pure titanium or quartz, the chances of that happening are slim to none.

"If [the nail] was made with lower-grade metal rather than Grade 2, commercially pure titanium, it could flake off," de Sailles warns. "But as far as titanium oxidizing, it's supposed to naturally change color a bit over time. As far as I know, there's no adverse side effects to that."

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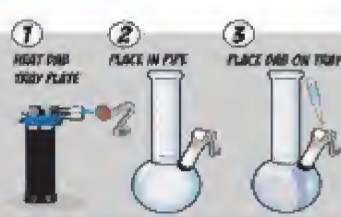
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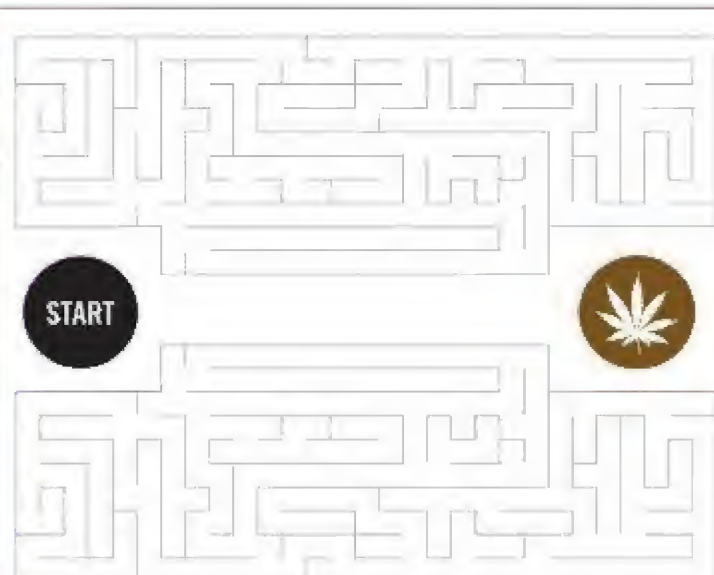
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- 2 PLACE PORE ON NAIL
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“Whether there are any adverse effects, I don’t think anybody really knows,” Dr. Shackelford says a bit more circumspectly. “But titanium is in a lot of different things—it’s in yogurt; titanium oxide is a coloring agent in sunscreen; and most frequently it’s used in implantable joint-replacement devices—so there’s probably not much of a danger.”

Blowtorch Blowback

Assuming we’re able to dismiss the health risks, there is still the public-relations issue: namely, that because the techniques used to make and consume BHO bear an eerie resemblance to those used for harder drugs like meth and crack—and because its potency is so much higher than regular weed—dabbing is ripe for exploitation by the prohibition propaganda machine. At a time when the acceptance of marijuana among the general public is higher than ever, there’s a fear that seeing teenagers wielding blowtorches or blowing themselves up on the evening news might incite a new anti-pot paranoia that could set the legalization movement back decades.

Breathes discounts such concerns as mere growing pains in cannabis’ perceptual evolution. “People have been



smoking hot knives in *High Times* for 40 years, and it’s really the same premise,” he says. “It’s just a progression, a matter of technology. Maybe people got scared when glass pipes became big or headshops became big. There’s always going to be something to scare the people who want to be scared. Those people are probably turned off by cannabis in the first place and probably aren’t too open-minded.”

Dabbing is ripe for exploitation by the prohibition propaganda machine.

“It’s just about being honest and transparent and showing it in a positive way,” Breathes adds. “It’s the same as weed; it’s just stronger. There are people using it recreationally, and that’s wonderful, but we’re looking at it as a new way of medicating. For somebody who’s really sick—battling nausea, for example—maybe choking down a whole joint isn’t for them. Vaping one little hit of oil or solventless wax is so potent all at once, it’s great medicine. We need to talk about that—that’s how we bring it to the public and stop people from being scared of it.”

For his part, de Sailles offers the following prediction with a chuckle: “More and more people are using vape pens and e-cigs to smoke their oils—so I imagine that will be more socially acceptable than a blowtorch.”

Or perhaps we can just say, as one promotional sticker so insouciantly puts it, “Relax, bro—it’s just a blowtorch.” ✨

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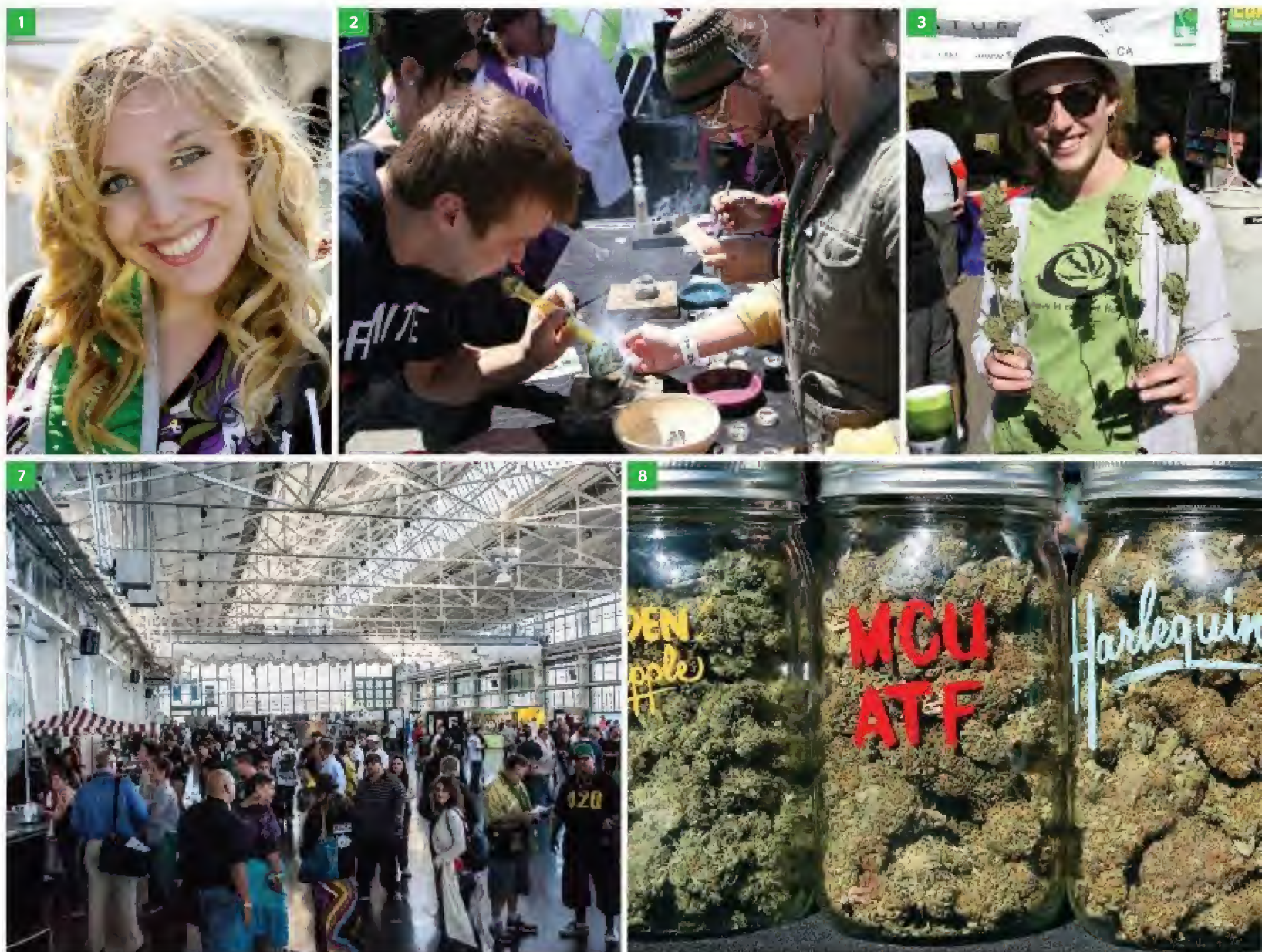
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Hazy Days in the East Bay

It was our third Medical Cannabis Cup in the San Francisco Bay area. Like the saying goes: This one was a charm!

Early seafarers didn't realize that a wide, deepwater harbor lay just beyond what is now called the "Golden Gate," the strait that flows between the San Francisco and Marin Peninsulas. Remarkably, it wasn't until 1775 that a Spanish explorer actually entered the Bay and anchored.

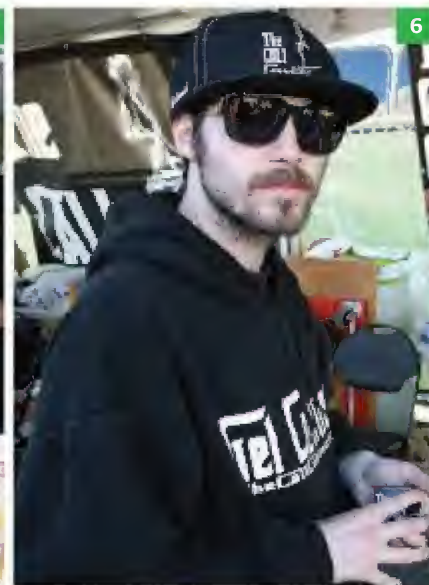
The Bay area remained lightly populated until 1849, but the Gold Rush transformed the region. Opportunities abounded in the Bay cities and in the outlying wilderness, which teemed with natural resources. Infused with fresh capital and a restless, ambitious population, the Bay area earned a reputation as

a place to dream. Today a population of more than 7 million lives in this region, which encompasses nine counties of California.

The San Francisco Bay area was a natural choice for the first *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup two years ago. During the past 40 years, its history has been closely tied to marijuana. The counties of Northern California became defined by the superior weed they produced and the Bay area was always the first stop for exports. During the '70s in San Francisco, the legendary Dennis Peron openly operated a weed supermarket and later opened the nation's first "compassion

club" in 1994. And, of course, history was made here in 1996 when California passed Prop. 215, the trailblazing medical marijuana initiative, architected by Bay area activists, that made medical marijuana a national reality.

Sixteen years later, a thriving industry has taken root statewide. However, its evolution has been punctuated by concerted interference on the part of the federal government, especially in recent months. But if the massive turnout for our third Medical Cannabis Cup in the Bay area is any indication, the burgeoning cannabis industry remains undaunted.



1) Miss High Times 2012, Emily Aryn. 2) Doin' dabs at the Harborside booth. 3) Vendors strolled the midway with merchandise. 4) Hills Farmacy won for Best Edibles and also took the CBD Cup. 5) Not Your Mama's Recipe offered a pantry full of edibles. 6) Swerve, the seedmeister behind Cali Connection. 7) The cannabis community filled the Craneway Pavilion expo hall. 8) The eye-catching products of Hills Farmacy. 9) Attendees made no secret of their affection for cannabis. 10) Purple Gorilla, as clone and as bud.



The Winners

SATIVA

- 1) Premium Jack Herer, Playbud Delivery Service
- 2) Yogi Diesel, Elemental Wellness
- 3) XJ-13 Cracker Jack, Santa Cruz Mountain Natural

INDICA

- 1) Cordero Kush Platinum, San Jose Patients Group
- 2) Master Yoda Kush, Kush Connection
- 3) Cherry Kola, Sonoma County Collective

HYBRID

- 1) Larry OG Kush, The Cali Connection Seed Company
- 2) Ken's Phantom, Granddaddy Purple Collective
- 3) OG Sky, Buddy's Cannabis

CBD AWARDS

- 1) MCU ATF Bubble, Hills Farmacy Presents Master Control Unit
- 2) Lemon Remedy, Harborside Health Center of San Jose
- 3) Harlequin, Buds and Roses Collective

CONCENTRATES

- 1) Hardcore OG Budder, Superior Extracts for West Coast Cures
- 2) OG Super Sexy Budder, LA Confidential Caregivers
- 3) Unfuckwitable OG Wax, Venice Medical Wax Centers

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EDIBLES

- 1) Eleve Gourmet Veganic Medicated Truffles, Hills Farmacy
- 2) CannaChocolate 44/ 8mg THC/ CBD, Tea House Collective
- 3) Spicy Orange Drops, Greenway Compassionate Relief Inc.

BEST BOOTH

- 1) Mama P's
- 2) Elemental Wellness
- 3) Cali Connection

BEST PRODUCT

- 1) Mama P's Grinder
- 2) KO Nail from KO Domeless Nail
- 3) The Grinder Card from V-Syndicate

BEST GLASS

- 1) Hitman Glass
- 2) Pulse Glass
- 3) Dopeass Glass

The Craneway Pavilion of Richmond, CA is a former Ford factory that turned out tanks during World War II. Now it's a bright, high-ceilinged venue capable of accommodating all kinds of events. The multi-windowed facility overlooks the Bay and offers panoramic views of San Francisco across the water. As a hosting site for a medical marijuana expo it was ideal, providing a sunlit hall for industry vendors and an outdoor "Prop. 215 Medication Area" that benefited from a weekend of the Bay area's best possible June weather. Not surprisingly, when doors opened that was the primary destination for attendees.

This was our seventh stateside Medical Cannabis Cup. At each event we've noticed that the medication area's vibe is similar to that of a carnival midway—colorful, crowded and loud. Attendees could sample edibles, grab vapor hits and dab to their heart and lungs' content at a variety of booths. Vendors roamed the crowd inviting them to try their merchandise. Cali Connection's block of booths anchored the outdoor area allowing this award-winning seed company to showcase a variety of their products. Top dispensaries from the Bay area were here, like Elemental Wellness and the



San Jose Patients Group. Of course, top breeder Subcool made the scene, too, accompanied by live plants.

A number of top vapor pen producers were on hand as well. Trippy Stix hawked their revolutionary "no cartridge" vapor pen, while Atmos showcased an entire line of top-quality pens in a variety of styles. "A vaporizer for every state of mind" is the Atmos slogan.

If there is any doubt about the efficacy of LED lighting for gardens, the people at Haight Solid State vanquished them. Their promise of a low-priced lighting system capable of reducing power bills and still producing great weed would brighten any grower's day.



Clockwise: Bobby Black (right) led the "To Dab or Not to Dab?" panel; Subcool represented TGA Seeds with Ms. Jill; two potheads are better than one!

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The nights were reserved for celebration. The expo hall was converted into a concert stage and Del the Funky Homosapien rocked the crowd on Saturday night. On Sunday night, *High Times*' version of the Oscars rolled out the green carpet to fete the winners of our Medical Cannabis Cups. A number of outfits walked away with awards. In fact, among the first, second and third place winners in the *indica*, *sativa*, hybrid and CBD categories, there were no duplicate winners, proving that quality in Cali is everywhere.

There was no surprise in Hitman Glass' win for Best Glass of the expo. They're a leader in glass technology for concentrates, also taking top honors at the Los Angeles Medical Cannabis Cup in February and second place in Denver this past April.

Richard Lee was honored with the Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award. Everyone knows Richard as the brash activist who founded Oaksterdam University, but he's been involved in cannabis issues for more than 20 years. For his contributions—especially in the wake of the federal raids on Oaksterdam—Lee was honored for his groundbreaking work. As usual, he was humble and quick



to single out the “warriors” of our community for specific praise.

The fact is, anyone who uses marijuana and works to make it legal is a warrior. Because our struggle is a war. The stakes are high. On a personal level, arrest and prosecution for using pot can wreck your life. As a society, our freedom is at stake. Our nation's attitude and actions toward those who use marijuana is downright frightening.

Yet, there are so many brave spirits among us and we can determine how free we really are. That's the purpose of the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup. ✨



Clockwise: Amsterdam's hash queen Mila congratulates Richard Lee; Del the Funky Homosapien with his stage stash; Radical Russ Belville and Danny Danko lit up the airwaves.

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by MARK RIBOWSKY

DENNIS “OIL CAN” BOYD

In the '80s and early '90s, Dennis “Oil Can” Boyd possessed one of the most fearsome pitching arms in Major League Baseball. What you might not know is that he was high for every game.

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

THE FORMER BOSTON RED SOX PITCHER HAS PENNED HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY, *THEY CALL ME OIL CAN: BASEBALL, DRUGS, AND LIFE ON THE EDGE* (FIRESIDE BOOKS, JUNE 2012). ACCORDING TO THE 52-YEAR-OLD NATIVE OF MERIDIAN, MS, WHO'S STILL PLYING HIS TRADE FOR SEMIPRO TEAMS AROUND NEW ENGLAND, THEY COULD HAVE CALLED HIM “OIL CANNABIS,” BECAUSE THERE WASN'T A SINGLE GAME HE PLAYED THAT HE WASN'T STONED. AND SINCE HE PITCHED 214 GAMES FROM 1982 TO 1991, THAT'S A LOT OF *HIGH TIME*. IN FACT, “OIL CAN” SPENT VIRTUALLY EVERY DAY STONED. HE SAYS, “NOBODY EVER KNEW WHEN I WAS HIGH ON WEED, BECAUSE I WASN'T EVER *NOT* HIGH ON WEED.”

BUT NOT EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS STORY IS MIRTHFUL AND CAREFREE. HE WAS OFTEN IN TROUBLE OR CREATING TROUBLE FOR HIMSELF. HE HAD MORE THAN ONE DRUG HABIT, FALLING INTO THE FREEBASE/CRACK COCAINE PIT EARLY ON—ONE THAT HE'S STILL TRYING TO CLIMB OUT OF. BUT FOR ALL THAT, BOYD'S BEEN MARRIED TO THE SAME WOMAN FOR 27 YEARS, RAISED A SON AND A DAUGHTER, NEVER WENT BANKRUPT, AND NEVER LOST HIS MIND, OR HIS MANIC ENTHUSIASM FOR PITCHING, JAZZ, BUD AND LIFE.

BOYD RANG UP 26 OF HIS 78 LIFETIME WINS DURING THE 1986 SEASON FOR THE PENNANT-WINNING RED SOX—BUT WHEN HE WAS SNUBBED FOR THE ALL-STAR TEAM, HE THREATENED TO QUIT AND WAS SENT TO A PSYCHIATRIC WARD. HE WAS KEPT FROM PITCHING THE CLIMACTIC SEVENTH GAME OF THE WORLD SERIES AGAINST THE METS WHEN HIS MANAGER CLAIMED HE WAS “TOO DRUNK TO PITCH” (SOMETHING HE ADAMANTLY DENIES). WHEN HE WAS 5, CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS MICHAEL SCHWERNER, ANDREW GOODMAN AND JAMES CHANEY STAYED AT HIS HOME DAYS BEFORE THEY WERE KILLED, AND LYNCHINGS WERE COMMON IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD. PROUDLY CALLING HIMSELF “AN OUTSPOKEN NEGRO,” BOYD CLAIMS THAT HE WAS BLACKBALLED FROM THE GAME FOR IT, THAT THE SPORT AND THE RED SOX ARE AS RACIST AS EVER, AND THAT INTEGRATION HAS ONLY GIVEN “THE WHITE MAN THE UPPER HAND.” WE CAUGHT UP WITH THE “CAN” NEAR HIS HOME IN RHODE ISLAND.



“Can,” you look as young and frisky as ever—a wonderful testament to the benefits of a lifetime spent smoking pot. Are you stoned right now?

I took my medication this morning, yeah. [*Laughs.*] But for me, smoking pot is not so much to get high; that was years and years ago. Then it became part of the business that I did: professional baseball. I wouldn't go on the field without it. That's how I got prepared to perform. It wasn't just smokin' pot—it was smokin', putting on jazz, kicking back. And that's what it still is. I listen to jazz 24/7: George Howard, Howard Curtis, Kirk Whalum, Najee, Kenny G, Steve Cole ... I have somewhere close to 2,000 jazz CDs. Listening to jazz and getting high go hand in hand. At least two-thirds of jazz musicians smoke pot. They start their day out smokin' pot and they end their day smokin' pot, and they're great thinkers—they motivate themselves. That's why two-thirds of people that write great literature smoke pot, and two-thirds of artists, two-thirds of *all* creative people.

And two-thirds of ballplayers?

Guys messed around, yeah, but it wasn't an abundance of people. That was a sacred

“I was angry before I ever put on a Red Sox uniform. I'm a kid from Mississippi. I saw black people treated like shit.”

thing to guys; that's not like, “Let's go have a beer.” Shit, two-thirds of ballplayers are alcoholics. The clubhouse is full of beer. They were alcoholics before they were ever potheads. Me too. [*Cackles.*]

You've called one of your Sox teammates, Don Baylor, an “Uncle Tom bastard.” Isn't that a little harsh?

I don't take back nothin'. He said I should be banned out of the fucking game. Jim Rice was another guy like that. I was different than him—I didn't put up with any shit like he did. I was angry before I ever put on a Red Sox uniform. I'm a kid from Mississippi. I saw black people treated like shit. I saw a black man murdered when I was 9. The older black guys didn't



“Oil Can’s” new book throws the high, inside pitch.

understand that about me. They were like everyone else: “You’re makin’ money, nigger, shut your mouth.” They had to keep away because there were guys who were kicked out of baseball for respecting me. Then when they stopped winning games, they kicked *me* out, and I’ve been blackballed ever since. They couldn’t have a black man like me around if I wasn’t winning every game. They still can’t.

You also called Dick Howser a “redneck, bigoted mother-fucker” after he snubbed you for the 1986 All-Star team.

Bigotry had to do with that. I was the best pitcher in the league that first half. But I was too flamboyant, said things I shouldn’t. He couldn’t say anything about my ability and he couldn’t say anything about drugs, but he snubbed me anyway. That killed me—everything in baseball from that point went down. And my life hasn’t ever been the same from the day he didn’t pick me.

Did they have drug tests in those days?

They didn’t have random tests like they do now. They had piss tests, but you had to give them a reason to piss you. If you didn’t show up at the ballpark for two days, you got a piss test. I never gave ‘em a reason to piss me to where they could say, “I think you did some shit.” First of all, I always *looked* the same, because I was stoned every single day. But I was too smart for that; I was the first one at the ballpark and the last one to leave. I’ve never been tested—no piss test, no blood test, no nothin’. And the truth of it is that I never had a drug problem; I had a *people* problem. People fucking with me when they should’ve left me alone and just enjoyed the show. If I was in the big leagues now, I’d quit before I’d take a piss test. I told them that back then.



“Oil Can” smokes another hitter.

I told them, “I ain’t goin’ to the mound if I can’t smoke no weed.”

I said, “You wouldn’t get the same pitcher. You want me to get people out!” I told them, “I ain’t goin’ to the mound if I can’t smoke no weed.” The only time I did was for three days in the minors, and this teammate told me, “Can, this is the first time I’ve ever seen the whites of your eyes.” I told him, “Look fast, because it won’t be like this long.” And it wasn’t, because I didn’t feel good without pot. That was the last time I didn’t get stoned every day.

The book deals mainly with your cocaine addiction, not pot. When did you first get stoned?

I was about 12. My older brother Mike was in the Navy, and he’d come home and hit the juke joints, drink Boone’s Farm wine, get some girls, shoot pool and be smokin’ pot. He’d get it from the hippie white boys at the high school, and I’d hang around him, watching, absorbing. That was when I first heard jazz, in the pool hall. They’d be playing the Crusaders, Roy Ayres, Ronnie Lyles, Ramsey Lewis, and I’m lovin’ it—it’s

cool, sensual, and with it was the smell of pot, so it’s all *connected*. Then one day, Mike left a roach in the ashtray, and I took it and smoked it with some friends, and I ain’t stopped since. It wasn’t like the cops would come and bother you about it: The white kids and black kids were *all* smokin’ pot. We’d have our places to go and do it. Like when we’d drink, we’d go down to the creek and drink beer and cheap whiskey, moonshine—we made it. That’s how I got my nickname: We drank out of big old oil cans, and I drank a lot from those cans, and then I’d smoke a lot of weed.

My dad didn’t know. He was a landscaper, a businessman. He only smoked Camel cigarettes, no filter. Then when I was working for him, a couple of us smoked some bud and left it in an ashtray, and he took it and lit up. He thought it was a stale cigarette, but he kept on puffin’ and got real stoned. We were laughing so hard, man, we were on the floor. He never knew he got high, and we never did tell him.

You say you never pitched when you weren’t high, but you didn’t specify if that meant high on pot, or coke, or both.

Just pot—I ain’t never pitched a game on coke. You cannot play baseball smokin’ cocaine; it gets you too fucked up. Besides, where you gonna snort or smoke it—in the dug-out? Now, I *did* do coke if I wasn’t pitching. I’d go out

to my car and smoke it in the parking lot during the game. And I kept coke on me when I pitched, under my cap, because I didn’t want to leave it in the hotel room. You get paranoid; you think people

will search through your things—so I was gonna keep it on me. Sometimes my cap would come off and the rocks would fly all over the mound. I’d rub them with my spikes into the dirt and reach down and try to save what I could in my pocket.

I know the difference between good and bad drugs. I’d never do acid, hallucinogens, barbiturates. Cocaine, I fight with it every goddamn day. I don’t want to hear guys say, “I’m off it—I went to church and stopped.” God don’t put you on it and God won’t take you off it. Listen, we’re plagued by cocaine in the streets, my race is. I got relatives that are dead because of this shit—shot, killed, murdered, wounded. I’ve been a cocaine addict for 30 years, knowing how terrible it is. The last time I did coke was two months ago. I’m trying, but I have a problem—and so does Josh Hamilton. He says he’s off it, and he can say what he wants, but he’s a drug addict. He’s the best ballplayer in the game—the best I’ve ever seen—but he’s an addict the rest of his life.



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So you had no hesitation getting stoned when you played ball?

Getting high on pot was *all about* playing ball. When I was a kid, I played all sports, and when I started smoking pot, I saw how it could help me play—especially baseball and basketball, because in those sports you have to have an imagination, which I do. Basketball requires the most individual skill and imagination: to get by somebody and get a clean shot takes an imagination. I know some really good basketball players who smoke cannabis. With baseball, the goal is to be relaxed. Baseball isn't a game of movement all the time; there's a lot of time to think about what you have to do, what you'll do if the ball is hit at you and so forth. I was definitely a thinker on the mound, finding ways to get people out. Using pot stimulated my mind. That was my edge: I could out-think you—and with the ability and the arm that I have, when I put those two things together, I'm hard to beat.

What about the Red Sox management? Did they know?

Here's the truth: The Red Sox made sure I had pot. They made sure nobody was gonna bother me about gettin' it. I could go anywhere in Boston, any city, and buy it. They *wanted* me to get high before a game. Bill Buckner once said to them, "You leave him alone, because whatever he's on, get him some more. Keep him high."

In 2005, you were ordered into drug rehab when you were convicted of threatening a woman—and you did drugs anyway. That's why they sent you to jail.

That was all bullshit—but they didn't get me for drugs. So my feeling was: Why are you getting into my personal life? Why are you even fuckin' with me about drugs? All



rehab did was mess me up. I couldn't focus, couldn't eat, read, sleep; I was gonna go crazy if I didn't have some shit. They didn't even have cigarettes, and I've smoked cigarettes since I was 7. When they let me out, I went right to the store for cigarettes—and then to get some coke and weed. I told them in rehab, "I can't live like y'all want me to live. It's not your life; it's *my* life." They couldn't understand that I smoke pot to deal with being black, that it helps me *be* black. And I will move to the fucking moon to smoke pot. If that's where they're growin' it, that's where I'm goin'.

It's interesting that when John McNamara bypassed you for Game 7 against the Mets, he said it was because you were "too drunk to pitch." Nothing was said about drugs.

And I wasn't even drinkin'! They couldn't say it was drugs because they knew all about it. They just weren't gonna let me pitch that game,

When I started smoking pot, I saw how it could help me play.

period. They still held the All-Star thing against me, like I disgraced baseball, and they weren't gonna let me redeem myself, let a black man like me who stood up for himself pitch the last game. I've been told that by people who know. Before that game, McNamara said, "You'll be the first one up in the bullpen." I said, "First one up, nothin'—if I ain't starting the game, I ain't pitching." And you saw what happened. The guys who came in couldn't hold the lead. I was so upset that night. I cried when Buckner made the error, because I knew we didn't

put the best team out there that game. I was their best pitcher; they don't get to the World Series without Dennis Boyd. Then they fuck with me and it all goes out the window. They fucked themselves.

You slag your old team but still write in the book, "I'll always be a Red Sox."

There's good with the bad. I did something very special for that team. I put my place in Red Sox history. I'm proud of that. They can't take that away from me.

You made your acting debut playing the great Satchel Paige in a movie about Jackie Robinson. Do you feel you're a kindred spirit of his?

He was a great showman and he dominated doing it his way, like I did. I love all the old Negro Leaguers, because that was the last time black men were free to be black men. We ain't got no individuality anymore. Blacks are no better off today than when we first came over here 300 years ago. Jackie Robinson took that away. We ain't writing the laws, and the laws don't work for us. We would've been better staying separate and governing ourselves instead of submitting. Hey, I was kicked out of baseball, and not by a man who looked like me. My daddy is the grandson of a slave, and that's the mentality society wants me to have. And I don't like that, man.

To end on a happier note, when's your next game?

I got a ballgame this weekend in the Rhode Island semi-pro league. I treat those guys like amateurs—but then I used to treat the big leaguers like they were amateurs, too. I'm no different than I used to be. I'm still "Oil Can", do the same shit. As a matter of fact, I'm gonna go do some shit right now. 🌿

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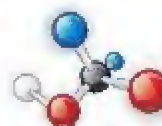
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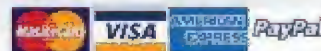
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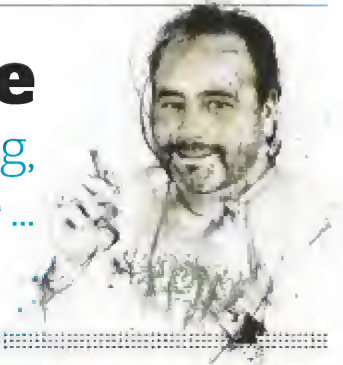
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SUBJECT: **Now You See the Light**

FROM: **Alex M.**

🌱 I've tried growing six times now, and I always have the same result: The seeds germinate and grow maybe 30 centimeters, but then they die. I use normal plant soil, and the plants are inside so they don't get too much sunlight. Why do they always die after a week?

Dear Alex,

The answer to your question is simple—in fact, you've stated it in your query. Plants need light in order to live, and the amount of sunlight you describe them getting simply isn't enough to sustain growth. If you're going to grow indoors, you must add some form of horticultural lighting to your setup. Cannabis can grow on a sunny, south-facing windowsill, but you're not going to harvest much without supplemental light. See my answer to the second question in this column for some tips on lighting systems, and be sure to start providing some form of adequate light to your plants.

The view from below shows grow lighting above the canopy.

Danko Tip: To work inside your growroom during “nighttime” hours, use a green-colored bulb in a regular light socket so the plants won’t consider it an interruption of their dark cycle.

This hillside Mendocino garden, on a southern-facing slope, grows in full sunshine all day long.



SUBJECT: **Revegetating Plants**

FROM: **Farmer Gee**

🌱 I started some clones outside and didn’t use lights to bring them to their vegetative state. Now the plants are about 11 inches tall and still in bud. Is this a ruined crop, or will things straighten out? I’m a medical-marijuana cardholder and need some help. PS: Love the magazine!

Dear Farmer,

Thanks for supporting *High Times*! We try hard to provide valuable information on growing, consuming and fighting for marijuana freedom, and it’s great to hear your words of support for the cause.

It is possible to revegetate your plants, but you need to put them immediately under at least 18 hours of light. They will revert from forming flowers to producing shoots and new leaves after a period of readjustment, which can take as long as a couple of weeks to occur. This is also a period when the plants could exhibit some strange characteristics (such as twisting leaves), although that should abate over time.

Revegging plants is also a last resort for growers who wish to keep genetics

that they might otherwise lose. Some growers choose to reveg after harvest by leaving the main stem, a few branches and some fan leaves untouched and then placing the stripped-down plant back under 18 or more hours of light per day. In this way, they can get another, smaller harvest from the same plant—but it’s not something I generally recommend due to the time restrictions and drastically lower yields.

SUBJECT: **Indoor Lighting**

FROM: **Dek**

🌱 What lights are best for growing indoors? I’m starting up a plan to become self-sufficient, but I need to know where to begin, and I figure lighting is the most important decision I’ll have to make.

Dear Dek,

In my opinion, high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting such as high-pressure sodium (HPS) and metal halide (MH) is still the industry standard for growers who want big yields of dense nuggets. Light-emitting diode (LED) technology has been improving vastly and the prices are coming down, but I still wouldn’t

recommend it as a primary light source. Fluorescents are low in their electrical consumption and great for small-scale growing in closets and cabinets, but they don’t provide the necessary lumens to power a decent-sized production garden.

Ideally, self-sufficient growers should have MH lights in their mother-plant, vegetation and cloning areas and HPS in their flowering rooms. Compact fluorescents or LEDs can be used as supplemental lighting in both areas.

SUBJECT: **Burnt Tips**

FROM: **Scruffy McLovin**

🌱 I have a very specific question to ask the almighty grow gods at *High Times*. A friend and I have each grown Chem Dog, and we’ve both had the same issue with our crops: We get decent yields and the bud is tasty as hell, but we can’t seem to keep the fan leaves from looking like garbage. They exhibit signs of some form of nutrient deficiency or burn. It’s very strange and hard to figure out.

What’s weird is that, while we use similar setups, our water sources are very different. My friend is using Pro-Mix with extra perlite, I’m using Sunshine Mix with extra perlite, and we both grow under 600-watt HPS lights. His water source is a reverse-osmosis (RO) machine outside a grocery store, while mine is well water. Also, he adds Cal-Mag and I don’t. However, we’ve both had the same end result, and I can’t help but feel that we’d get more production if the fan leaves weren’t dying throughout the entire flowering cycle. Any info you can offer would be much appreciated. Y’all rock, and I love my monthly HT! Never stop!

Dear Scruffy,

It sounds to me like you and your friend are both over-fertilizing your Chem Dog plants. If the leaves are looking burnt, and it starts out at the tips and works its way closer to the stem, then that would be my diagnosis. Chem Dog isn’t a strain that likes to be fed heavily, and the symptoms you describe sound like a classic case of too much plant food.

The solution is to flush out the plants with plenty of plain water—at least three or four times the volume of your containers. Be sure to test the nutrient ppm (parts per million) of the plain water that runs out the bottom of the containers,

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Danko Tip: Tin foil has no place on your head or on the walls of a growroom. Use Mylar or, better yet, paint the walls flat white for proper reflection.

and don't stop flushing until you have low numbers (under 500 ppm). Then you can adjust your fertilization technique by using a milder nutrient solution. Start with a quarter of the recommended amount on the bottle, and you should see your plants respond with healthy new growth. Continue to use plain water in between feedings so that you don't create more salt buildup. If you stop giving your plants nutrients with every watering, you should see them improve (and keep in mind that it's always easier to add more food to your soil than it is to remove it).

Good luck, and thanks for the kind words!

SUBJECT: **Moldy Hash**

FROM: **Judge Dread**

🌿 I keep having the same problem over and over with my bubble hash: It comes out really nice, tasty and dark, but after a day or two, I start seeing white spots that look like mold on the outside and even in the middle of my puck. Is there any way to keep my ice-water-extracted hash from getting moldy? I don't think it's safe to smoke the stuff I keep producing, and I need to find a way to fix this problem.

Dear Judge,
The only way to keep your hash from getting moldy is to dry it out completely. As soon as you've scraped your ice-water-extracted glandular trichomes, it's essential to begin a proper drying process, especially since any water left in your hash will cause the molding to begin quickly.

Squeeze your ball of hash immediately using the screen with the smallest pore size. (Some kits come with a special screen just for this purpose.) Wrap the outside of the ball with a paper towel and replace the towel as it collects water and gets soaked. Next, break up the hash into the smallest pieces possible and lay them out on some cardboard. Put them in the sun if you can, as this will help remove the leftover moisture. You can also put the hash ball in the freezer, since the cold will draw the moisture to the outside of the ball, but this is a tedious process that requires a lot of going back into the freezer to remove the condensation that collects.

The key is to start drying out your wet



Storage mold on hash viewed closeup.

hash as soon as possible and keep it until you're satisfied that all of the water has been removed. And you're right: never smoke moldy hash or buds!

SUBJECT: **Sucking Air**

FROM: **J. Hendrix**

🌿 I'm currently in the process of setting up a small growroom, about 100 cubic feet, with both a timed CO₂-delivery system and a carbon-filter ventilation system. I'm having trouble figuring out how to alternate the timers on these two systems—if I regularly run the ventilation system, it will evacuate the CO₂. I would use a simple oscillating fan, but I'm concerned about the moisture that may build up in the room. I'm using LED lights, so heat should not be a problem. How do I go about addressing this dilemma?

Dear J.,
You will need to alternate the ventilation system and the CO₂-injection system to optimize both the temperature in your growroom and the plants' ability to absorb the CO₂ and grow bigger and faster. The ideal way is to use sensors that monitor the CO₂ level as well as the temps and then turn on your fans and gas delivery accordingly: CO₂ is injected while the exhaust fans are off, and then, as the CO₂ level drops due to plant absorption, the exhaust fans kick in to remove the hot, spent air. Without an atmospheric controller, you can simply set the timers to alternate at specific periods, but I highly recommend investing in a controller for the best results.

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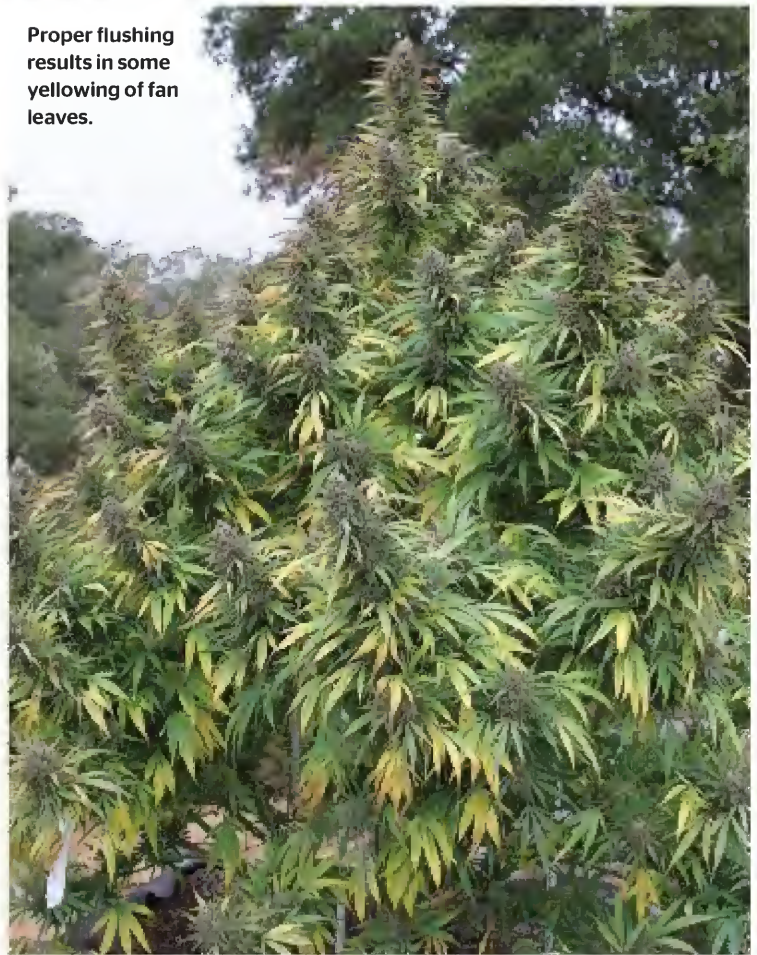
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SUBJECT: **Testing Runoff**

FROM: **Bob S.**

Hi, Danny—love the *Free Weed* potcast! When growing in soil, does it make sense to check the PPM of the runoff just like you'd check the pH, to see how much of the nute solution the plants are taking up? Or do you only need to monitor the ppm of the solution that you're putting in? And on an unrelated note, how do you know when you've solved a deficiency—i.e., if the lower leaves are damaged to the point of no return and you feed to correct this, but now the top leaves are yellowing, is it the same problem, or do you now have an immobile-nute issue? Thanks!

Dear Bob,

It always makes sense to check the pH and the PPM of your runoff in order to know what's going on at the root level. These levels must always be checked before adding nutrient solution to your plants as well. If the ppm of the runoff is high, this is a sign either that you're over-fertilizing your plants or that they're experiencing nutrient lockup due to pH issues. If the pH of the runoff is too low or too high, then you know there's an issue with your soil, and you can adjust the nutrient solution in order to correct it.

If you've seemingly solved a nutrient deficiency, but the new growth is showing signs of the same problem, you may have a nutrient-lockup issue due to a pH fluctuation or an over-fertilized soil mix. In that case, flush with pH-balanced plain water and start over. The old, damaged leaves won't get any better, but the new growth should show signs of recovery. 🌱

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Kind Facts

Glaucoma, drug testing and potency.

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

How was it discovered that marijuana helps those with glaucoma?

Maya

Hi Maya,
 The late Robert C. Randall discovered this effect on his own. Glaucoma is associated with high pressure inside the eye. Bob used to see halos around lights when the pressure in his eyes got bad. One day he smoked and the halos disappeared. He went through hellish legal battles, but he became the first user of medical cannabis approved by the federal government. The plant saved his eyesight for years and years.

[Editor's note: *Only eight patients have ever been approved by the federal government to use medical marijuana—the last in 1991. Only four are still alive today.*]

What's the story on detecting pot in spit?

DC

Hi DC,
 Saliva tests are supposed to detect recent use. The method seems less invasive than a blood test and less humiliating than a urine screen—plus reasonable cut-offs might be possible, though sitting in a smoke-filled room can still produce a false positive. Frankly, I don't like the idea: If we're worried about impairment, then test for impairment—not metabolites. It's more important for a person to pass a reasonable roadside sobriety test or a computerized assessment of motor skills than to show the absence of something in his or her fluids.

Bob Randall, medical cannabis hero, 1946-2001



The plant saved his eyesight for years and years.

What makes one marijuana plant female and another male?

Dahlia

Hi Dahlia,
 Bottom line: The female plants have the seeds, and the male plants shoot the pollen around. I can't put it any more bluntly.

Do plants grown under brighter lights have higher rates of THC?

Tom

Hi Tom,
 I usually forward questions like this to my pal Danny Danko, but there is a documented trend for slightly higher potency under brighter lights in a study of seven different strains. The biggest impact of brighter lights, however, is on yield. Every extra 100 watts or so can add several grams to the weight of an individual plant. ✨

Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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On Cocaine Profits, Banks and Los Zetas

Who are the puppets and who are the masters in the dirty war south of the border?

PRIOR TO THE infamous sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena, Colombia, last April, it looked like a major showdown on drug policy reform might unfold—perhaps even a golden opportunity to discuss the merits of legalization in the global media. Many of the participants in these US-sponsored dog-and-pony shows are already fed up with our policy toward Cuba, a country that remains barred from attending the summits despite the long-gone end of the Cold War.

But the real source of concern this year was a comprehensive report on drug trafficking by two Colombian economists, Alejandro Gaviria and Daniel Mejía, from the University of the Andes in Bogotá. The report conclusively proved that more than 97 percent of cocaine profits are laundered through major banks in the US and England—not in Colombia, where the banking laws are far stricter and more transparent. Of the approximately \$300 billion in profits realized from Colombian cocaine annually, less than \$8 billion stays inside the country.

“It is a minuscule proportion of GNP, which can impact disastrously on society and political life, but not on the Colombian economy,” says Mejía. “The economy for Colombian cocaine is outside Colombia. Prohibition is a transfer of the cost of the drug problem from the consuming to the producing countries. They’d rather go after the petty economy, the small people and coca crops in Colombia.”

“In the US, you have very strong laws on bank secrecy; in Colombia, not,” Gaviria adds. “Just to bank \$2,000

involves a huge amount of paperwork—and much of this is overseen by Americans.”

Given the explosion of drug cartel violence in Mexico, this report could have served as the focal point for a push to legalize all plants. But few here in



“The economy for Colombian cocaine is outside Colombia. Prohibition is a transfer of the cost of the drug problem from the consuming to producing countries.”

the US even know about it. And the only news that made it out of Cartagena this spring involved the Secret Service agents in President Barack Obama’s advance team hiring prostitutes while off-duty. During the moral outrage and media feeding frenzy that followed, I found it strange that most news services neglected to mention that prostitution is legal in Colombia. You are far more likely to run into a honey-trap terrorist plot involving a beautiful woman who beds you for free than a working girl trying to make an honest living in the midst of a global depression.

Another inconvenient truth about the Drug War in Mexico is that Los Zetas—possibly the most ruthless drug gang in history—were actually trained by United States Special Forces in a program designed to introduce 21st-century technology to select commando units inside the Mexican military. However, after finishing their training in the US, all 30 commandos were immediately lured into the Gulf Cartel in 1999. By 2010, Los Zetas had gone rogue and are now in the process of wiping out the Sinaloa Cartel. Their official logo shows a disembodied hand holding a crossbar controlling the strings of a marionette, taken directly from the famous Godfather poster—although I sometimes wonder who’s really pulling the strings to this puppet. ✨



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High On the Ball

Bringing the marijuana message to the MTV masses.

GROWING UP, I often heard my age group referred to as the “MTV Generation”—a label I never identified with, considering that my family didn’t even get cable until the ’80s were over. Plus, I loathed pretty much everything aired on MTV, with one flagrant exception: *Headbanger’s Ball*.

In an era when the only time heavy metal was seen on TV was when it was being blamed for inciting violence, suicide and Satanism in America’s youth, the *Ball* was the one oasis where we could see our culture represented as the *force majeure* it truly was. The show first aired in 1987—just as I was graduating junior high and solidifying my identity as a metalhead. And while my friends and I could’ve done without all the glam and Christian metal coverage (*Death to false metal, you posers!*), we were so stoked to see interviews and backstage footage of *real* metal bands that it didn’t much matter.

The show was abruptly cancelled in 1995 and remained off the air until 2003, when the network revived it on its MTV2 channel. After undergoing a series of format changes and guest hosts, the *Ball* was eventually relegated to the MTV website in 2011 and given a new permanent host: my buddy Jose Mangin from Sirius XM. Jose now carries a mini-HD camcorder to every concert he attends so he can interview the bands backstage—which is exactly what he was preparing to do when I arrived at the Gramercy Theater for the Metal Alliance Tour this past March to present DevilDriver with their Doobie Award for Best Metal Artist.

Initially, I’d had some trouble getting the trophy in: Security wasn’t in the habit of letting anything made of glass into the club, let alone a two-foot bong. But after a quick powwow with the management, I was escorted back to the dressing room, where I found Jose chillin’ with DevilDriver

frontman Dez Fafara. As fellow pagan pot-heads, Dez and I had immediately hit it off when I interviewed him for our March 2010 issue, and we’d kept in touch ever since. I can think of few metal performers as worthy of the honor as he. I wasted no time unwrapping the Doobie and presenting it to Dez, then sparking up a few joints in commemoration.

Unsurprisingly, this led to my second encounter with club security—apparently, our stinky celebratory smoke had wafted all the way out to the merch table.

“You gotta keep this closed!” bellowed an

agitated guard before slamming shut the door. “It reeks out here!”

Having turned over the award and gotten everyone high, my job was done; now it was time for Jose to do his. I stared stonily as the master of metal media riffed effortlessly with Dez about the tour, the reunion of his old band Coal Chamber, and which label they planned to sign with next.

“I’m into passion,” Dez said regarding any future home for the band. “I want to find passion for DevilDriver’s music and what we do, for the hard touring that we do ... when we find that, we’ll do something.”

Then, at the end of the interview, Jose did something I never expected—he invited me on camera. “Before we end this, I want to say ‘What’s up?’ to my boy Bobby Black. Get your ass in here! Bobby works at *High Times*, and we’ll end off the *Ball* here with a little trophy presentation on behalf of HT to Dez.”

Unfortunately, since MTV’s parent company Viacom is notorious for its anti-drug censorship, we couldn’t show the trophy

on camera for fear they’d cut the whole segment. After growing up watching all of my headbanging heroes on the *Ball*, getting the chance to appear on an episode and represent HT alongside two righteous heads like Jose and Dez was more epic than any power ballad. ✨



The marijuana metal alliance!

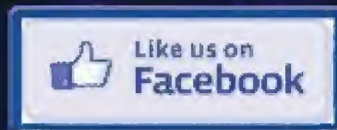
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Race & Reefer Arrests

Disturbing data show that cops in search of urban pot busts have primarily targeted minorities.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

SINCE THE 1970s, NORML has publicized the annual arrest data state by state for cannabis-related offenses. (In some years, we've even been able to produce reports specific to a municipality or county.) However, the lack of media and political concern regarding our nation's cannabis-arrest rate has always been a major source of professional frustration and personal pique.

Consider the fact that the annual nationwide arrest rate for cannabis offenses now tops 850,000—more than 25 million arrests since 1965, with 90 percent for possession only. Our country's major institutions have simply chosen to ignore the abject failure and public policy disgrace that 75 years of government-imposed cannabis prohibition have shown themselves to be.

But perhaps this societal ignorance is abating. Either the overt racism baked into prohibition has finally irked our elites, or these crushing recessionary times have caused us to take notice of prohibition's dire economic drain. Driven largely by the groundbreaking work of Queens College professor Harry Levine, former ACLU communications director Loren Siegel, and former NORML director and *High Times* contributor Jon Gettman, the rampant racial disparity in New York City's pot-arrest rates has been exposed for all to see. Furthermore, they



note that this pattern has replicated itself across most of America.

At last, influential people in the media, business, policymaking and long-established civil rights groups are recognizing what cannabis consumers have always known: The prohibition of cannabis is a failure, and the cannabis plant has won.

The *New York Times* forthrightly reported and editorialized against the NYPD and Mayor Michael Bloomberg's overly aggressive cannabis law enforcement, especially the so-called "stop and frisk" policy that allows police to question and search anyone they deem "suspicious." That policy has resulted in more than 50,000 arrests annually, 90 percent of them minorities. That particularly appalling statistic has led to one of the most important partnerships to date for advancing the end of cannabis prohibition.

Our nation's most influential and active civil rights groups for African-Americans is the NAACP. Its leadership—notably the director of the California NAACP, Alice Huffman—decided to examine the cannabis arrest data in 2010. They were shocked by the size and scope of the arrests and concluded that they could no longer stand on the sidelines of the public debate while police and politicians engaged in this overtly racist policy. The stark disparity in the racial makeup of the arrests—to say nothing of prosecutions and incarcerations—demanded a response. In 2010, Huffman delivered the single most poignant and inspired speech at the NORML conference in Portland, OR.

In the coming months, drug policy reform organizations will be working closely with traditional civil rights groups seeking greater public and media scrutiny of these cannabis arrests and the racial disparity in enforcement practices. In time, this should translate into legislative action by the Congressional Black Caucus, which has definite sway in Democratic circles, including with President Barack Obama. ✨

Check out the state-by-state arrest reports, including racial disparity data, at marijuana-arrests.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

THE VIRGINIAN

Ed McCann says, "Yes, we can!"

He started life as a typical American kid in the town of Lynchburg, VA—and like many young Americans, Ed McCann experimented with cannabis in college. But his experimentation led to an advanced interest in the science and politics surrounding marijuana. McCann says he transformed himself from consumer to advocate in 2004, when he attended the annual NORML

conference in Washington, DC. "Entering a ballroom filled with regular people—all pot smokers—changed my perspective and launched me on my activist journey," he recalls.

Ed moved to Los Angeles for work, but found himself in the midst of California's "Green Rush." Sensing an opportunity, he became a partner at the medical marijuana collective Organica and went on to open his



own shop, the Green Sun Collective.

But now Ed is back in Virginia, bringing with him not only his unique experience in the cannabis industry, but also a strong passion to see sensible cannabis law reform enacted in his home state.

In a short period of time, Ed has several accomplishments to his credit. Virginia NORML has expanded to include seven subchapters, whose

members have testified in favor of a bill to study the idea of selling marijuana via state liquor stores. With NORML's input, the Charlottesville City Council even managed to pass a resolution asking the state to decriminalize and regulate marijuana.

In less than a year, Ed McCann has proven himself a fiercely committed and effective advocate—one who hopes, by stoking grassroots activism, to spread the truth about cannabis throughout the commonwealth.

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator



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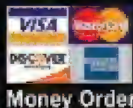
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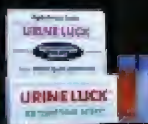
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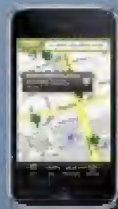
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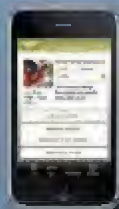
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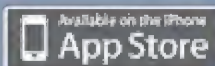
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Greg Gladden

3017 Houston Ave.
Houston, TX 77009-6734
713-880-0333
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Gerald Goldstein

2900 Tower Life Bldg.
San Antonio, TX 78205
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Michael C. Lowe

Attorney At Law
700 N Pearl Street, Ste 2170
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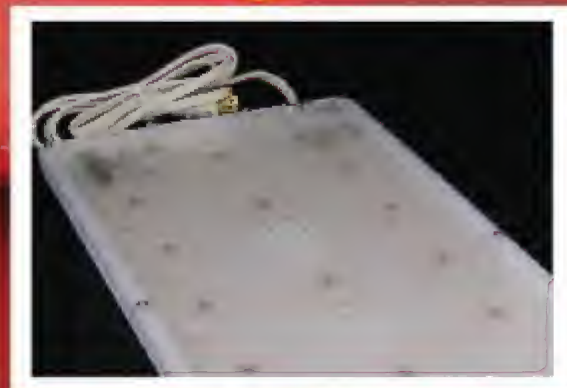
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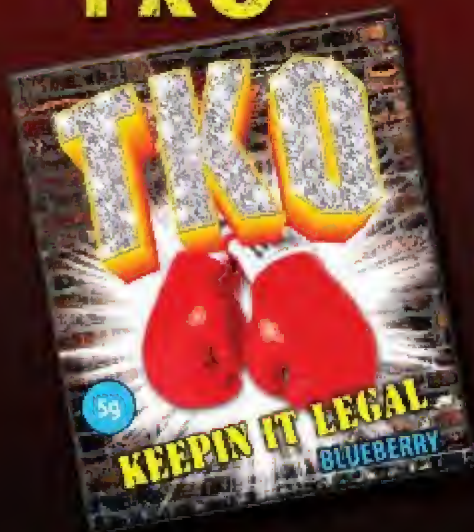


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Here are photos of Strawberry Cough x Chem Dog D, a.k.a. Strawberry Dog that's WV raised and "O-high-O" grown. This strain filled the room with a very intense strawberry aroma. Check out the vibrant colors she produced! Tastes as good as it looks! *Twan*



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Remote Control Growrooms

Cultivation editor Nico Escondido reports on cutting-edge remote control growrooms that utilize specialized sensors to control everything in your garden directly your laptop, iPad or smartphone.

The 25th Cannabis Cup Preview

The Cup is on! Check out the latest from Amsterdam—the news, the laws and what's on schedule for the greatest cannabis event in the world.

Tim Schafer's High Score

The creator of cult classic video games including *Psychonauts*, *Grim Fandango* and *Brütal Legend* discusses the source of his inspiration and how he's bringing his brand of classic adventure back to life through unconventional means.

The Revelation of Dr. John

The New Orleans music legend holds a five-day mystic ceremony to heal the poisoned waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Editor-in-chief Chris Simunek is on the scene.

Vapor Pen Review

With a plethora of pocket-sized vaporizers hitting the market, it's hard to tell the gems from the junk. Fear not! We separate the best from the rest.

NICO ESCONDIRIO

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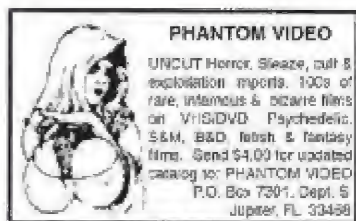
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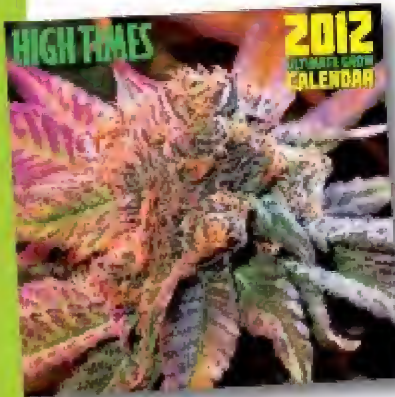


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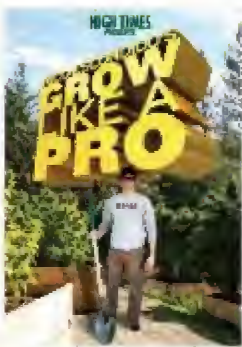


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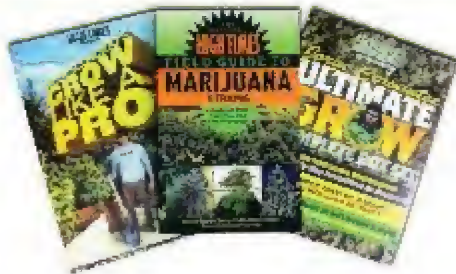
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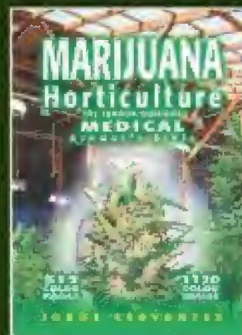


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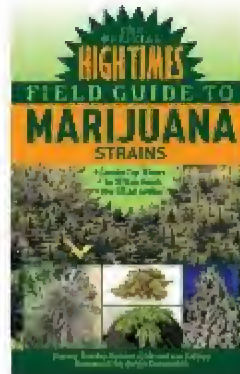


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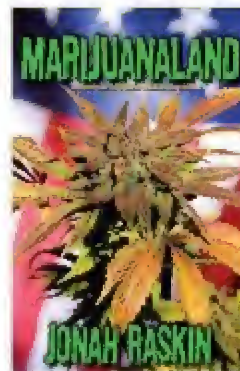


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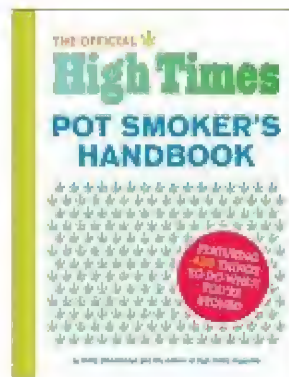
High Times Books



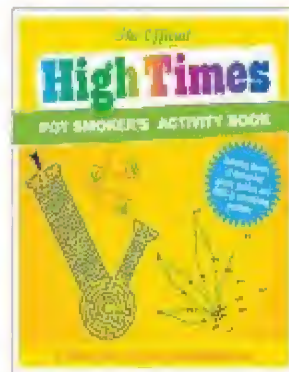
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The POT40

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1 **Grandpoobah** (with a drawing of a marijuana plant)

2 **Support Hometown Growers**

3 **POT for PTSD**

4 **Medical Marijuana** (with a drawing of a beaker and test tube)

5 **840 UNICE DS GOOD AS 420**

6 **DISCO DOGG** (with a drawing of a dog's face)

7 **DANA BEAL**

8 **Medical Marijuana in Connecticut!**

9 **I Love You Cindy** (with a drawing of a woman's face)

10 **FREE THE WEED** (with a drawing of a man holding a sign)

11 **FREE ALL WEED PRISONERS** (with a drawing of a man holding a sign)

12 **FREE TOMMY CHONG!** (with a drawing of Tommy Chong's face)

13 **IT'S NEARLY 4:20** (with a drawing of a clock)

14 **FREE MAREMERY**

15 **The Choom Gang** (with a drawing of a person)

16 **Let's Fly High** (with a drawing of a person flying)

17 **Medical Marijuana** (with a drawing of a person)

18 **AFGHAN RUSH SPECIAL** (with a drawing of a person)

19 **CLASSIC STORK** (with a drawing of a stork)

20 **END STOP and FRISK NYC**

21 **Free**

22 **SEEKING PROGRESSIVE PLAYS & INFLUENCING FREEDOM FROM SOCIETY**

23 **SMOKE MY TWIST** (with a drawing of a cigarette)

24 **Every day she wears the same thing I think she smokes POT...**

25 **Freshly Baked in NYC** (with a drawing of a building)

26 **DRUCELLA WRATHCHILD FOR PRESIDENT**

27 **WEED BE BEST FRIENDS**

28 **While there is a lower class, I am in it, and while there is a criminal element I am of it, and while there is a soul in prison, while there is a soul in prison, I am not free. - Eugene Debs**

29 **RIP Myra Morrison** (with a drawing of a person)

30 **EAT MUSHROOMS AND SEE THE MUPPETS (in 3-D)**

31 **WAKE UP THIS MORNING, THOUGHT I HAD THE MEASLES, SO I LAID BACK DOWN AND HIT THE SOUR DIESEL!**

32 **BUY THE TICKET, TAKE THE RIDE** (with a drawing of a person)

33 **ASU (ALWAYS STONED UNIVERSITY)**

34 **216 JOINTS in the human body and not one in my pocket** (with a drawing of a person)

35 **meet me at Romantix**

36 **We (still) MISS YOU Jerry** (with a drawing of Jerry Seinfeld)

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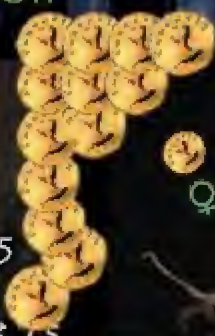
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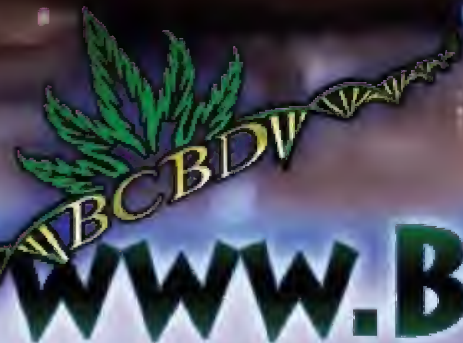
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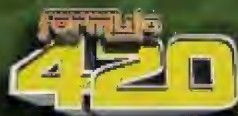
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